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FIFTH TRIENNIAL SESSIONS.

ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GENERAL SYNOD

OF THE

✓
Reformed Church,

IN THE

UNITED STATES,

General Synod

AT

Fort Wayne, Indiana, May 19th, A. D. 1875.

CINCINNATI:

ELM STREET PRINTING COMPANY, 176 & 178 ELM STREET.

1875.

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FIFTH TRIENNIAL SESSIONS.

ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

Of the General Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States, convened in the St. John's Reformed Church, Fort Wayne, Allen County, Indiana, on Wednesday, the nineteenth day of May, at eight o'clock in the evening, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five, and closed its sessions on Wednesday, the twenty-sixth day of May, at eleven o'clock in the evening.

ARTICLE I.

OPENING OF SYNOD.

The General Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States convened according to official appointment in triennial sessions, and, after singing and prayer, the opening sermon was preached by the President, Rev. John H. Klein, D. D., from Acts 1: 8: "But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me, both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." The Synod, at the close of the religious services, without proceeding further in effecting a permanent organization, adjourned until Thursday morning at nine o'clock.

ARTICLE II.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

The members enrolled and present were the following:

FROM THE SYNOD IN THE UNITED STATES.

CLASSES.	MINISTERS.	ELDERS.
<i>East Penn- sylvania.</i>	Abraham B. Koplin. Alfred J. G. Dubbs. Samuel A. Leinbach.	Joseph Laubach. Owen L. Schreiber. Thomas F. Butz.
<i>Lebanon.</i>	Charles H. Leinbach. William F. P. Davis. Henry A. Keyser. Daniel B. Albright.	George G. Heilman. Louis H. Koch. Ephraim B. Shuey. Charles Bonar.
<i>Philadelphia.</i>	John H. A. Bomberger, D. D. Samuel R. Fisher, D. D. David E. Klopp.	Henry M. Stauffer. Thomas Ingram, M. D. John Wiest.
<i>Lancaster.</i>	Emanuel V. Gerhart, D. D. Thomas G. Apple, D. D. Darius W. Gerhard.	Daniel W. Gross. William H. Seibert. William F. Lichliter.
<i>East Susque- hanna.</i>	John W. Steinmetz. Calvin S. Gerhard. Thos. Frank Hoffmeier.	David Eschbach. Jonathan Sweisfort. George Hill.
<i>West Susque- hanna.</i>	William H. Groh. Hiram King.	Henry Miller. Griffith Rote.
<i>Goshenhoppen.</i>	No delegates present.	
<i>Tohickon.</i>	Nathaniel Z. Snyder. R. Leighton Gerhart.	Noah Sheip. Henry Shellenberger.

FROM THE OHIO SYNOD.

<i>Miami.</i>	Isaac H. Reiter, D. D. David Van Horne. Samuel Mease, D. D.	Andrew H. Baughman. Benjamin Kuhns.
<i>Lancaster.</i>	Henry Williard.	Peter Brown.

CLASSES.	MINISTERS	ELDERS.
<i>Tuscarawas.</i>	Nathaniel H. Loose. Jesse Steiner.	Thomas W. Chapman. Henry Dillier. ¹
<i>Tiffin.</i>	Jeremiah H. Good, D. D. Reuben Good.	Lewis Keller. Andrew Sohn.
<i>St. John's.</i>	Peter Greding. Ernst F. A. Schade. ²	Louis Zellner. Conrad J. Geiger, M. D.
<i>Eastern Ohio.</i>	John M. Kendig. John J. Leberman.	Robert Bell.
<i>N. Illinois.</i>	Daniel Lantz.	John Meyer.
<i>Shelby.</i>	Harvey Wilson.	
<i>Iowa.</i>	Cyrus Cort. Dewald S. Fouse.	Josiah Swinehart. Samuel Wildasin.
<i>Ursinus.</i>	No delegates present.	
<i>St. Joseph's.</i>	John D. Gehring. Elias Spangler.	Peter Jacoby.
<i>Cincinnati.</i>	Oswald J. Accola.	John W. Keller.
<i>Kansas.</i>	Joseph A. Keller.	Frederick Isely.

FROM THE SYNOD OF THE NORTHWEST.

<i>Indiana.</i>	S. Nevin L. Kessler. John H. Klein, D. D. Lewis Praikschat. ³	William Stieneker. Ernest F. Oslage. Dan. B. Rothenberger.
<i>Sheboygan.</i>	James Bossard, Ph. D.	
<i>Heidelberg.</i>	Conrad F. Waldecker. ⁴ John F. H. Dieckman.	Jacob Moser. Christian Focht.

¹ His seat was occupied from Monday morning's session until the close of the sessions, by Elder George Souder, *secundus*.

² He was superseded during the Friday morning's session by Rev. John G. Zahner, D. D., *primarius*.

³ He took his seat on the morning of the third day of the sessions.

⁴ His seat became occupied on the afternoon of the seventh day of the sessions by Rev. John H. Stepler, *secundus*.

CLASSES.	MINISTERS.	ELDERS.
<i>Erie.</i>	Gerhard Kühlen. William Renter.	Bernard Sturm. Lewis Wunke.
<i>Milwaukee.</i>	Henry A. Meier. Augustus Becker. ¹	Joseph Andreas. ²
<i>Minnesota.</i>	Christian H. Schoepfle.	Peter Mades.
<i>Zion's.</i>	Peter Kohl. Caspar Pluess. ³	John Otto. Rudolph Boerger.
<i>Nebraska.</i>	No delegates present.	

FROM THE PITTSBURG SYNOD.

<i>Westmoreland.</i>	John W. Love. John I. Swander.	Joseph Cort. John Truxal.
<i>Clarion.</i>	Jacob F. Wiant. D. S. Dieffenbacher.	David Humphrey. Adam Smith.
<i>St. Paul's.</i>	Joseph H. Apple.	Christian M. Boush.
<i>Somerset.</i>	Henry F. Keener.	Samuel Foust.
<i>Allegheny.</i>	John A. Hoffheins. George B. Russell, D. D.,	Thomas J. Craig. Jacob Hershey.

FROM THE SYNOD OF THE POTOMAC.

<i>Zion's.</i>	Jacob O. Miller, D. D. William K. Zieber, D. D. Moses Kieffer, D. D.	William A. Wilt. William Lupfer. Jonas Rebert
<i>Maryland.</i>	Simon S. Miller. J. Spangler Kieffer. Edmund R. Eschbach.	David Zeller. J. Taylor Motter. Louis Markell.
<i>Mercersburg.</i>	Elnathan E. Higbee, D. D. Adam C. Whitmer. Ellis N. Kremer. William M. Deatrick.	William Dice. David B. Russell. Frederick Hyle. Adam B. Wingerd.

¹ He took his seat on the morning of the third day of the sessions.

² He took his seat on the morning of the third day of the sessions.

³ He took his seat on the morning of the third day of the sessions.

CLASSES.	MINISTERS.	ELDERS.
<i>Virginia.</i>	Charles G. Fisher.	George Sherman.

<i>North Carolina.</i>	George W. Welker, D. D. Jacob C. Clapp.
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San Francisco. No delegates present.

FROM THE GERMAN SYNOD OF THE EAST.

<i>New York.</i>	John F. Busche.	George Breit.
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West N. York. John B. Kniest.

<i>Ger. Philadel-</i>	Jacob Dahlman.	William D. Gross.
<i>phia.</i>	Charles Becker.	Jacob Schmidt.

Ger. Maryland. Marcus Bachman.

MEMBERS FROM CORRESPONDING BODIES.

From the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America —
Rev. John A. De Baun.

ADVISORY MEMBERS.

From Lebanon Classis.—Rev. George Wolff, D. D.

From Philadelphia Classis.—Rev. John G. Noss.

From Miami Classis.—Revs. Peter C. Prugh, Levi Pike, Henry M. Herman, Samuel B. Yockey.

From Tiffin Classis.—Revs. Herman Rust, D. D., Joshua H. Derr, Jonas Michael, Wm. H. Fenneman, Theodore J. Bacher.

From St. John's Classis.—Revs. Ernest F. A. Schade, Christopher Schiller.

From Eastern Ohio Classis.—Rev. George M. Albright.

From Iowa Classis.—Rev. John B. Poerner.

From St. Joseph's Classis.—Revs. Daniel Kroh, Henry Bair, Samuel Z. Beam, John R. Skinner, Jacob Burkholder, David H. Reiter, Casper Scheel.

From Heidelberg Classis.—Revs. Jacob Klingler, John H. Stepler.

From Milwaukee Classis.—Rev. William E. Hansen.

From Zion's Classis (Synod of N W.).—Revs. Albert Krahn, Christian Baum, William B. Sandoe, John B. Ruhl, Philip Ruhl, Abraham Bolliger.

From Clarion Classis.—Rev. David W. Wolff.

From Maryland Classis.—Rev. Orange E. Lake.

From Mercersburg Classis.—Rev. Wm. C. Schaeffer

MINISTERS FROM OTHER CHURCHES.

Rev. David W. Moffat, First Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Joseph Hughes, Second “ “

Rev. H. G. Mendenhall, Third “ “

Rev. John B. Fairbank, Congregational “

Rev. Clark Skinner, Methodist E. “

Rev. Thomas Stahler, “ “ “

Rev. A. Marine, “ “ “

Rev. W. S. Birch, “ “ “

Rev. W. J. Aylesworth, Christian “

Rev. W. W. Lovett, Church of God.

ARTICLE III.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The following persons were duly elected as officers of this Synod :

Rev. William K. Zieber, D. D., *President*, Hanover, Pa.

Rev. James Bossard, Ph. D., *Vice-President*, Sheboygan, Wis.

Rev. Thomas G. Apple, D. D., *Vice-President*, Lancaster, Pa.

Rev. Isaac H. Reiter, D. D., *Stated Clerk*, Miamisburg, Ohio.

Rev. Jacob Dahlman, *Assistant Clerk*, Philadelphia, Pa.

Rev. Dewald S. Fouse, *Corresponding Secretary*, Lisbon, Iowa.

Elder William D. Gross, *Treasurer*, Philadelphia, Pa.

ARTICLE IV.

RULES OF ORDER.

The Rules of Order used by the General Synod at Cincinnati in 1872 were adopted as the rules by which this Synod shall be governed in its deliberations during its present sessions.

The Synod defined the bar of the house to be the twelfth pew from the front in the church.

The following hours were fixed upon for opening and closing the present sessions of Synod :

The *Morning Sessions* to open at nine and close at a quarter before twelve o'clock.

The *Afternoon Sessions* to open at three and close at half past five o'clock.

Evening sessions were held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, the sixth, seventh and eighth days of the sessions.

ARTICLE V.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

The President appointed the following Standing Committees :

On Religious Services.

Ministers—John H. Klein, D. D., Albert Krahn, William H. Groh. *Elders*—Rudolph Boerger, Henry Miller.

On Synodical Minutes.

MINUTES OF GENERAL SYNOD : *Ministers*—Reuben Good, Alfred J. G. Dubbs, John D. Gehring. *Elders*—Joseph Laubach, Thomas W. Chapman.

MINUTES OF SYNOD IN THE UNITED STATES AND OHIO SYNOD : *Ministers*—William M. Deatrick, Nathaniel H. Loose, Jacob F. Wiant. *Elders*—Thomas Ingram, M. D., Joseph Cort.

MINUTES OF PITTSBURG AND POTOMAC SYNODS : *Ministers*—David E. Klopp, Joseph H. Apple, Charles G. Fisher. *Elders*—David Eschbach, Andrew H. Baughman.

MINUTES OF SYNOD OF THE NORTHWEST AND GERMAN SYNOD OF THE EAST : *Ministers*—Charles H. Leinbach, Peter Greding, John B. Kniest. *Elders*—William Stieneker, George Breit.

On Official Reports of Classes.

Ministers—John I. Swander, Cyrus Cort, Augustus Becker. *Elders*—Lewis Keller, William A. Wilt.

On Overtures.

Ministers—John W. Steinmetz, Oswald J. Accola, Darius W. Gerhard. *Elders*—Adam B. Wingerd, Ernest F. Oslage.

On Correspondence with Sister Churches.

Ministers—Moses Kieffer, D. D., John F. Busche, Henry Williard.
Elders—Owen L. Schreiber, John W. Keller.

On the State of the Church.

Ministers—George B. Russell, D. D., David Van Horne, R. Leighton Gerhart, James Bossard, Ph. D., Edmund R. Eschbach, Marcus Bachman. *Elders*—John Wiest, Daniel W. Gross.

On Missions—Home and Foreign.

Ministers—John W. Love, J. Spangler Kieffer, Daniel Lantz, Joseph A. Keller. *Elders*—David Zeller, Frederick Isely.

On Orphan Homes.

Ministers—George W. Welker, D. D., Adam C. Whitmer, Christian H. Schoepfle. *Elders*—Louis Markell, William D. Gross.

On Nominations.

Ministers—Jacob O. Miller, D. D., John M. Kendig, Simon S. Miller. *Elders*—Christian M. Boush, David B. Russell.

On Finance.

Ministers—Samuel Mease, D. D., Charles Becker, Henry F. Keener. *Elders*—Thomas J. Craig, Jacob Schmidt.

ARTICLE VI.

COMMUNICATIONS.

1. There were four copies of the Minutes of the last General Synod received, through the Stated Clerk and the Assistant Clerk, and referred to the Standing Committee on the Minutes of the General Synod.

2. The Minutes of the Synod in the United States, of the Ohio Synod, of the Synod of the Northwest, of the Pittsburg Synod, of the Synod of the Potomac, and of the German Synod of the East, for the period intervening since the last triennial sessions of the General Synod, were received, through the respective Stated Clerks, and referred to the respective Committees on the Minutes of the several District Synods.

3. The Minutes of the Classes of East Pennsylvania, Lebanon,

Philadelphia, Lancaster, East Susquehanna, West Susquehanna, Miami, Lancaster (Ohio), Tuscarawas, Tiffin, Eastern Ohio, Northern Illinois, Iowa, Ursinus, Cincinnati, Kansas, Sheboygan, Heidelberg, Milwaukee, Minnesota, Zion's (Northwest Synod), Nebraska, Clarion, Somerset, Allegheny, Zion's (Potomac Synod), Maryland, Mercersburg, North Carolina and German Philadelphia, were received and referred to the Committee on Official Reports of Classes.

4. The report of the General Board of Foreign Missions, together with the reports of the Treasurer of Foreign Missions and of the Treasurer of the Church Extension Fund, were received and referred to the Committee on Missions; and also a statement of the General Board of Home Missions was received and adopted.

5. The report of the Treasurer of the General Synod was received and referred to the Committee on Finance.

6. A communication was received from a Committee of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in regard to an Œcumenical Council of Presbyterian Bodies, and referred to the Committee on Overtures.

7. Several other papers and documents were received and referred to the Committee on Overtures.

ARTICLE VII.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

The General Synod during its present sessions observed the following religious services :

1. The sessions of each day were opened and closed with suitable religious services.

2. The Standing Committee on Religious Services submitted their report, which was received, amended and adopted, and is as follows :

The Committee on Religious Services would present the following report:

I. Reformed Churches.

St. John's Church.—Thursday evening, half past seven o'clock : Rev. E. F. A. Schade ; liturgical services, Rev. J. B. Kniest. Friday evening, half past seven o'clock : Rev. J. F. Busche ; liturgical services, Rev. P. Kohl. Saturday afternoon, two o'clock : preparatory service, Rev. J. Bossard, German ; Rev. G. B. Russell, D. D., English ; litur-

gical services, Rev. A. Krahn. Sunday morning, half past ten o'clock: holy communion, Rev. J. G. Zahner, D. D., German; Rev. R. L. Gerhart, English; liturgical service, Rev. A. Krahn. Sunday afternoon Sunday-school addresses: Rev. C. H. Schoepfle, German; Rev. Lantz, English. Sunday evening: Rev. O. J. Accola, German; Rev. D. E. Klopp, English.

Salem's Church.—Thursday evening, half past seven o'clock: Rev. Charles Becker. Friday evening: Rev. S. N. L. Kessler, English. Saturday evening: preparatory services, Rev. M. Bachman. Sunday morning: holy communion, Rev. C. F. Waldecker, German; Rev. J. H. Good, D. D., English. Sunday evening: Sunday-school missionary festival, Rev. J. H. A. Bomberger, D. D., Rev. J. B. Kniest, Elder H. Leonard.

II. Other Churches.

First Presbyterian Church.—Sunday morning, half past ten o'clock: Rev. J. H. A. Bomberger, D. D. Sunday afternoon Sunday-school address: Rev. E. R. Eschbach. Sunday evening: Rev. John A. De Baun, Delegate of the Reformed Church in America.

Second Presbyterian Church.—Sunday morning: Rev. E. V. Gerhart, D. D. Sunday afternoon Sunday-school address: Rev. M. Kieffer, D. D. Sunday evening: Rev. E. E. Higbee, D. D.

Third Presbyterian Church.—Sunday morning: Rev. T. G. Apple, D. D. Sunday evening: Rev. M. Kieffer, D. D. Sunday afternoon Sunday-school address: Rev. C. Cort.

Congregational Church.—Sunday morning: Rev. J. I. Swander. Sunday evening: Rev. D. Van Horne.

Methodist Episcopal Church, Berry Street.—Sunday morning: Rev. T. F. Hoffmeier. Sunday evening: Rev. D. S. Fouse.

Methodist Episcopal Church, West Wayne Street.—Sunday morning: Rev. J. O. Miller, D. D. Sunday evening: Rev. J. H. Derr.

Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church.—Sunday morning: Rev. J. W. Steinmetz.

Baptist Church.—Sunday morning: Rev. S. Mease, D. D.

Church of God.—Mission Chapel.—Sunday morning: Rev. H. A. Keyser. Sunday evening: C. S. Gerhard.

English Lutheran Church.—Sunday morning: Rev. S. R. Fisher, D. D. Sunday evening: Rev. G. W. Welker, D. D.

Christian Church.—Sunday morning: Rev. D. S. Dieffenbacher. Sunday evening: Rev. J. W. Love.

African Protestant Methodist Church.—Sunday afternoon: Rev. S. A. Leinbach.

Evangelical Association.—Sunday morning: Rev. G. Kuhlen.
Sunday evening: Rev. P. Kohl.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN H. KLEIN, *Chairman*.

The religious services, as appointed by the Committee, were severally observed.

ARTICLE VIII.

SYNODICAL MINUTES.

I. MINUTES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD.

The Standing Committee on Minutes of the General Synod submitted their report, which was received, and disposed of item by item, and is as follows:

The Standing Committee on the Minutes of the last General Synod respectfully report as follows:

Item 1, page 26. A Committee of Correspondence with the Pastoral Conferences in Switzerland and Detmold is continued.

Item 2, page 28. A resolution to appoint a Committee of three from each of the five Synods comprising the General Synod, who shall confer with a like Committee of the Reformed Church in America on the proposed union between that Church and our own.

Item 3, page 29. Appointment of delegates to corresponding bodies.

Item 4, page 63. Apportionment of amount of indebtedness to the General Board of Home Missions, according to the membership of the several District Synods.

Item 5, page 68. The preparation of a constitution for the government of its affairs, together with other matters, was referred to the Board of Sunday-school Association.

Item 6, page 84. The appointment of a Committee to engage in the work of preparing a Hymn Book, and to report the result of their labors to this General Synod.

Item 7, page 85. The appointment of a Committee of three by each District Synod, who shall draft a new Constitution, and report the same to this General Synod.

Item 8, pages 85, 86. Articles proposed as amendments to the Constitution of the Church, and relating to the creation of a Court of Appeals and Last Resort, are referred to the Committee on the Revision of the Constitution.

Item 9, pages 86, 87. A number of other amendments to the Constitution are referred to the same Committee.

Item 10, page 89, provides for the organization of a new District Synod, out of the Classes of Zion's, Maryland, Virginia, Mercersburg and North Carolina.

Item 11, page 90. The Classis of Philadelphia is instructed and empowered to secure repossession of the property of the Market Square Reformed Church of Germantown, Pennsylvania.

Item 12, page 95. Apportionment of \$2,000 current expenses among the different District Synods.

Item 13, pages 88, 89, provides for the formation of a German District Synod.

Item 14, page 64. The election of Boards of (a) Home Missions and (b) Foreign Missions.

Item 15, page 67. The election of two members of the Board of Directors of Orphan Homes.

Respectfully submitted,

REUBEN GOOD, *Chairman.*

Disposed of as follows: Item 1 adopted, no report received and Committee discharged; for action of Synod on items 2 and 3 see Article XI., Correspondence with Sister Churches; for disposition of items 4 and 12, see Article XX., Finance; for action in item 5, see Article XV., Sunday-schools; for action in items 6, 7, 8 and 9, see Article XVIII., Church Government; item 10 adopted; for result in item 11, see action of Synod on item 4, in Report on Minutes of Classes; for result reached in item 13, see action on Report on Minutes of Synod in United States, item 9, and on Minutes of German Synod in the East, item 6; for action in item 14, *a* and *b*, see Article XIII., Missions; for result reached in item 15, see Article XIV., Benevolent and Religious Institutions.

II. MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT SYNODS.

The several Standing Committees on the Minutes of the different District Synods submitted their respective reports, which were

received and disposed of item by item, and then adopted as a whole. These reports are as follows :

1. Synod in United States and Ohio Synod.

The Committee, to whom were referred for examination the Minutes of the Synod in the United States and of the Ohio Synod, would respectfully report the following items of business claiming the attention of this General Synod, viz :

1. Synod in the United States.

MINUTES OF 1873.

Item 1, page 76. The Synod assumed the payment of \$335.00, the sum assessed for contingent purposes, by the General Synod of Cincinnati upon the "Proposed New Synod" which was subsequently organized under the name and title of the Synod of the Potomac.

Item 2, page 77. The Synod respectfully requests the General Synod to adopt a rule, whereby an additional column shall be opened in the Statistical Tables, in which shall be reported all moneys contributed in every pastoral charge for the support of the Church and the carrying forward of its interests, including the pastor's salary, except moneys given for Home and Foreign Missions, Beneficiary Education, Orphan Homes, Church Extension, the Society for the Relief of Ministers and their Widows, the Theological Seminary and the College under the care of Synod, which latter moneys, according to the rule now prevailing, shall be reported in the column of Benevolent Contributions as heretofore, and that it be sent down to the various Classes, in order to secure uniformity throughout the whole Church in this direction.

Item 3, page 79. The Synod directed its Classes to add an additional column, as requested by the last General Synod, in which shall be enumerated the number of students who are preparing for the Christian Ministry.

Item 4, page 89. A Committee, composed of Rev. E. V. Gerhart, D. D., J. H. A. Bomberger, D. D., and Elder Levi Fluck, was appointed as requested by the last General Synod, to co-operate with similar committees of the several District Synods, on the subject of union with the Reformed Church in America.

Item 5, page 91. The Synod appointed a Committee, consisting of Rev. T. G. Apple, D. D., S. R. Fisher, D. D., and Elder E. J.

Zahn, as directed by the last General Synod, to draft a new Constitution. .

Item 6, page 92. The Synod referred the request of the Lebanon Classis to give a more complete definition of the office of Deacon, to this General Synod.

MINUTES OF 1874.

Item 7, page 20. The General Synod is requested to open a column in the Statistical Tables for Adult Baptisms, and make it a general rule or order upon the Classes.

Item 8, page 63. The Synod, through a committee appointed for the purpose, formed and published a Selection of Hymns, as authorized by the General Synod.

Item 9, page 69. The Synod authorized the organization of the German Synod of the East, composed of the German Philadelphia Classis, the German Maryland Classis, the New York and West New York Classes.

Item 10, page 73. The Synod respectfully requests this General Synod to take such measures as will secure the co-operation of the whole Church in the observance of the approaching National Centennial Celebration in A. D. 1876.

2. *Ohio Synod.*

MINUTES OF 1873.

Item 11, page 13. The Ohio Synod appointed a Committee of Conference on the subject of Union with the Reformed Church in America, consisting of Revs. I. H. Reiter, D. D., G. W. Williard, D. D., and S. Mease, D. D.

Item 12, page 43. Rev. Ernest F. A. Schade gave notice that he would appeal to this General Synod, in behalf of himself and of the St. John's Classis, from the action of Synod in the difficulty between the Eastern Ohio and St. John's Classes.

Item 13, page 43. Revs. S. B. Yockey, P. C. Prugh, and G. M. Albright were appointed to defend the Synod, in regard to the aforesaid appeal before the General Synod.

Item 14, page 52. The Synod appointed a Committee to draft a new Constitution, consisting of Revs. L. H. Kefauver, P. C. Prugh, and H. Rust, D. D.

MINUTES OF 1874.

Item 15, page 47. Revs. John Kuelling and Joshua H. Derr, as counsel for Rev. H. Hanhart in Schleutker appeal case, gave notice

that an appeal would be taken in the case from the decision of the Ohio Synod to the General Synod.

Item 16, page 97. Revs. Dr. J. H. Good and H. M. Herman were appointed to defend the Ohio Synod in the aforesaid appeal before the General Synod.

Item 17, page 54. The name and title of "the Synod of Ohio and the Congregations with it in other States," are changed to that of "The Ohio Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States."

Item 18, page 44. Revs. S. B. Yockey, P. C. Prugh, and G. M. Albright are appointed to defend the Ohio Synod in the appeal and complaint case of St. John's Classis, originating in 1874.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. M. DEATRICK, *Chairman.*

Disposed of as follows: Items 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17 and 18 were adopted; for result reached in item 4, see Article XI., Correspondence with Sister Churches; for action on item 6, see Article XVIII., Church Government; item 7 adopted, and request therein granted; for action on request in item 10, see Article XXII., Miscellaneous; for disposition of items 12 and 15, see Article XVI., Appeals and References.

II. Pittsburg and Potomac Synods.

Your Committee on the Minutes of the Synods of Pittsburg and the Potomac beg to report that the following documents were placed in its hand:

1st. The Minutes of the Fourth and Fifth Annual Sessions of the Synod of Pittsburg.

2d. The Minutes of Organization and First Annual Meeting of the Synod of the Potomac.

And from these documents we find the following seeming to claim the attention of this Synod:

Item 1. Organization of Synod.

In accordance with the action of the General Synod at Cincinnati, the ministers and delegated elders of the Classes of Zion, Maryland, Virginia, Mercersburg and North Carolina met at Frederick, Maryland, April 18, 1873, and organized the Synod of the Potomac.—Pages 3 and 4 of the Minutes of Organization and Sessions of the First Annual Meeting of the Synod of the Potomac.

2. Recommendations of the General Synod.

(a.) According to the recommendation of the General Synod concerning Foreign Missions, the Synod directed foreign missionary moneys to be sent to the Treasurer of the General Synod's Board of Foreign Missions.—Pages 39 and 40, Minutes First Annual Sessions of the Synod of the Potomac.

(b.) Synod directed the appointment of a Committee of Conference with the Reformed Church in America.—Page 44, First Annual Sessions of the Synod of Potomac; 5 and 6, and 27, Fourth Annual Sessions of Synod of Pittsburg.

(c.) Synods were directed to appoint a Committee on the Revision of the Constitution.—Pages 5 and 6, and 27, of the Fourth Annual Sessions of Synod of Pittsburg, and 45 of Minutes First Annual Sessions of the Potomac Synod.

3. Requests.

The Synod of Pittsburg overtures this Synod to consider its action in regard to the teaching of theology.—Page 24, Fourth Annual Sessions of Pittsburg Synod.

4. Complaints.

(a.) Rev. F. A. Rupley, in behalf of Elder A. T. Rice, gave notice of complaint.—Page 33, Second Annual Sessions of the Potomac.

(b.) Rev. F. A. Rupley, in behalf of Elders J. W. Birely, A. T. Rice and I. Cronice, gave notice of complaint to General Synod.—Page 34, Minutes Second Annual Sessions of Synod of the Potomac.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID E. KLOPP, *Chairman.*

Disposed of as follows: Items 1 and 2 were adopted; for action in item 3, see Article XVIII., Church Government; and for disposition in item 4, *a* and *b*, see Article XVII., Complaints.

III. Synod of Northwest and German Synod of East.

Your Committee received the Minutes of the Synod of the Northwest, and of the German Synod of the East, and report from them as follows:

Synod of the Northwest.

MINUTES FOR 1873.

Item 1, pages 10 and 39. This Synod elected the following Committee on Union with the Reformed Church in America: Revs. H. J. Ruetenik, D. D., C. T. Martin, S. N. L. Kessler.

Item 2, page 10. Is laid on the table, the recommendation which refers to Home Missions.

Item 3, pages 11 and 39. The Committee on Revision of the Constitution consists of Revs. J. H. Klein, D. D., H. A. Mühlmeier and M. G. I. Stern.

Item 4, page 50. This Synod assents to the plan of the Board of Home Missions to establish a mission in Japan.

MINUTES FOR 1874.

Item 5, page 19. A request to the General Synod to take measures for protecting the Northwestern Synod against certain encroachments of the Presbyterian Church.

German Synod of the East.

Item 6. The proceedings of the German Synod of the East inform us that, on the authority of the General Synod, and the Synods of the United States, Pittsburg and Potomac, a new German Synod was organized on the twelfth of January, 1875, in the Salem's Reformed Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, under the name of "The German Synod of the East of the Reformed Church in the United States."

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES H. LEINBACH, *Chairman.*

Disposed of as follows: Items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 were adopted; and item 5 was adopted, and for action on request therein, see Article XVIII., Church Government.

ARTICLE IX.

MINUTES OF CLASSES.

The Standing Committee on the Official Reports of Classes submitted their report, which was received, amended, and, after having been considered item by item, was adopted as a whole. It is as follows:

Your Committee would respectfully report that documents have come into our hands from all the several Classes, except Goshenhoppen, Westmoreland, St. Paul's, Virginia, Shelby, Erie, Indiana, St. Joseph, W. New York, New York, San Francisco, German Maryland, Tohicon, St. John's.

Item 1. East Pennsylvania, Maryland and Iowa Classes overture the General Synod on the subject of *divorce* as follows:

(a) East Pennsylvania Classis accepts the request of the General Synod to be governed by the New Testament Scriptures in determining the grounds of divorce as of paramount authority; but respectfully asks this body to define what is the teaching of the New Testament in the matter.

(b) Maryland Classis regards the deliverance at Cincinnati as unsatisfactory, and reiterates its request for one scriptural, positive.

(c) Iowa Classis regards the action of the last General Synod as unsatisfactory and too indefinite, and asks: (1) For a positive deliverance on the subject; (2) That the lower Church Courts be instructed to exercise stricter discipline against church-members who violate the scriptural rule; (3) That the Synod decide adultery or fornication to be the only ground of divorce sanctioned by Christ and his Apostles.

Item 2. North Carolina Classis requests this Synod (a) to permit them the provisional use of any hymn-book or collection of hymns that they may select until a new hymn-book shall be adopted by a majority of Classes; and (b) to take such action as will correct the anomalous state of the Church in matters of worship as growing out of the permission to use several liturgies.

Item 3. Lebanon Classis requests a more complete definition of the office of Deacon.

Item 4. Philadelphia Classis, in the matter of the attempt to recover the property of the Market Square Reformed Church, at Germantown, Pennsylvania, reports the opinion of their attorney that the further prosecution of the case had better be discontinued. The Committee asks to be discharged.

Item 5. German Philadelphia Classis requests:

(a) That the proceedings of the General Synod be read in German so that the German Synods may have an official record.

(b) That the interest of the German Hymn-Book Fund be paid over to the German Evangelical Reformed Book Concern, at Cleveland, Ohio, for the purpose of publishing German Sunday-school books.

Item 6. Iowa Classis heartily thanks General Synod for the wise and honorable disposition made of the difficulties so long pending between the English and German wings of the old Iowa Classis.

Item 7. Iowa Classis respectfully requests the General Synod to

provide for the formation of two General Synods on the basis of language, in harmony with existing arrangements, in reference to District Synods and Classes, these two General Synods to be connected with each other by corresponding delegates.

Item 8. The Iowa Classis requests General Synod to define the authority of Classes and District Synods in the matter of licensing and ordaining ministerial candidates.

Item 9. All the Classes from which official reports have been received have, with very few exceptions, signified their hearty concurrence and consent to all the matters referred to them by the last General Synod.

Item 10. North Carolina Classis requests General Synod to take measures to guard against the violation of Article 138 of the Constitution.

JOHN I. SWANDER, *Chairman*.

Disposed of as follows: For action of Synod on items 1, *a*, *b* and *c*, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8 and 10, see Article XVIII., Church Government; item 4 was adopted and the Committee discharged; and items 6 and 9 were adopted.

ARTICLE X.

OVERTURES.

The Standing Committee on Overtures submitted the following report, which was received and disposed of item by item, and then adopted as a whole:

The Committee on Overtures would report that the following papers were placed in their hands, and require the attention of Synod:

1. A communication from a Committee of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, requesting this Synod to consider the expediency of holding an Œcumenical Council of the Presbyterian Churches, and if this Synod approves of such a Council to appoint a Committee of Conference to meet a similar Committee appointed by their body.

2. The Report of Geo. Gelbach, Treasurer of the Church Extension Board.

3. A request of Rev. C. H. Schoepfle to so alter the 50th Art. of the Constitution, as to provide for the traveling expenses of all the delegates to the General Synod and District Synods—that each

Synod shall pay the traveling expenses of its own delegates, so that all the Classes may bear their just proportion of the traveling expenses.

4. A communication from Rev. Henry Hanhart to the Home Mission Board of the General Synod, demanding the payment of two hundred dollars still due him for his missionary labors at La Crosse, Wisconsin, since December, 1868.

5. The papers relating to the Appeal and Complaint of Rev. E. F. A. Schade, for himself and St. John's Classis of Ohio Synod, against the decision of said Synod in 1873, growing out of certain difficulties between St. John's Classis and the Eastern Ohio Classis.

6. Papers relating to the Appeal of Rev. P. Greding, in behalf of St. John's Classis against the decision of the Ohio Synod in 1874, in regard the Louisville Congregation in Stark County, Ohio.

7. Papers relating to the Appeal of Rev. Henry Hanhart from the decision of Ohio Synod in 1874.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN W. STEINMETZ, *Chairman.*

Disposed of as follows: For action in item 1, see Article XI., Correspondence with Sister Churches; for action in item 3, see Article XVIII., Church Government; for action in items 2 and 4, see Article XIII., Missions; and for disposition of items 5, 6 and 7, see Article XVI., Appeals and References.

ARTICLE XI.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH SISTER CHURCHES.

The Standing Committee on Correspondence with Sister Churches submitted their report, which was received and adopted, and the request contained therein complied with. It is as follows:

I. Report of the Committee.

The Committee on Correspondence with Sister Churches respectfully report as follows:

That a letter of fraternal greeting, from Rev. Prof. Charles A. Hay, D. D., delegate to this body from the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States of America, has been

placed in our hands; and that we recommend that this letter be read, and that this Synod immediately elect a delegate to said Synod to convene in Baltimore City, Maryland, on the 26th inst.

Respectfully submitted,

MOSES KIEFFER, *Chairman.*

II. Reports from Delegates to Corresponding Bodies.

The delegates elected by the General Synod to Corresponding Bodies submitted their reports, which were received and adopted, and are as follows:

1. The General Synod of the Reformed Church in America.

The following report was received from the delegate to this body: To the General Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States:

The undersigned, having been appointed by the last General Synod at Cincinnati, Ohio, corresponding delegate to the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America, attended the annual meeting of that venerable body in June, 1873, in the city of New Brunswick, and was received with fraternal kindness. The meeting was a pleasant one, and it was evident that this Church was prosperous, and doing effectively a great work for our Lord Christ. This meeting will be memorable in the history of this Reformed Church, for the zeal with which the several representatives of sister Churches urged a closer union of these respective Churches with this branch of our Lord's kingdom. Your delegate was attentively heard in expressing the views and reasons of our own beloved Church for desiring closer relations with this sister Church which even before their transplantation to this continent were so intimately related in the days when both were under the cross. I need not express the profound regret of many whose hearts were set on such union over the result of negotiations had since that time, and known to the Churches. In his reply the eloquent President of the Synod expressed for that body the kindest wishes for the welfare and prosperity of our Zion, and charged your delegate to bear to the next General Synod of *our* Reformed Church on its reassembling the most cordial Christian greeting and the assurance of unabated affection.

Very respectfully,

GREENSBORO, N. C., May 1, 1875.

GEO. WM. WELKER.

2. *The General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.*

The following report was received from the delegate to this body :
To the General Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States :

The undersigned, elected by the Synod at Cincinnati, a delegate to the General Synod of the Lutheran Church, begs to report ;

That it was his design and hope to attend the sessions of that body in Canton, Ohio, in 1873, but he was unable to be absent from Tiffin at that time, in consequence of the annual examinations in the Theological Seminary. He then forwarded a letter to that Synod, tendering it the Christian salutations and greetings of their reverend body.

Respectfully submitted,

JEREMIAH H. GOOD.

3. *The Triennial Synod of the Moravian Church.*

The following report was received from the delegate to this body :
To the General Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States :

The undersigned, appointed by the General Synod at Cincinnati, to represent it at the Triennial Synod of the Moravian Church, requests to report, that, in consequence of an error as to the time of the meeting of that respected body, he failed to fulfill his mission.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN H. A. BOMBERGER.

4. *The Evangelical Synod of the West.*

The following report was received from the delegate to this body :
To the Reverend General Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States :

Beloved Brethren in the Lord :

The undersigned, delegate *primarius* of your body to the Evangelical Synod of the West, would respectfully report, that in consequence of a visit to the East it was not possible for him to be present at the General Assembly of the Evangelical Synod of the West in October. He duly notified the delegate *secundus*, who also was unable to attend, so that your reverend body was without a representative. While this is greatly regretted, it is hoped that the Synod will not omit to appoint, at its present session, a delegate to the above-named ecclesiastical body.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN KUELLING.

III. *Delegates from Corresponding Bodies.*

Immediately after the opening of Synod on Friday morning, the third day of the sessions, Rev. John A. DeBaun, delegate from the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America, appeared in Synod and presented his credentials, and took his seat as a corresponding member. On Saturday morning, the fourth day of the sessions, as the order of the day, he addressed the Synod in an appropriate and fraternal manner, kindly referring to the historical relations of the two Reformed Churches, and cordially conveying the greetings of the Church he represented. He also laid on the table of Synod a copy of the Minutes of the last annual session of the Synod represented by him.

The President, in behalf of this Synod and the Church represented by it, made a brief and suitable response.

IV. *Report of Committee on Union of Reformed Churches.*

The Committee authorized by the General Synod in 1872 on the subject of Union between the Reformed Church in the United States and the Reformed Church in America, as referred to in the report of the Committee on Minutes of General Synod, in item 2, submitted their report, which, including the report of the Joint-Committee of Conference, was received and adopted, and is as follows :

The Committee of this General Synod appointed to confer with a Committee of the Reformed Church in America, on the subject of a closer union between these two Reformed denominations, present the following report :

Your Committee, consisting of three persons,* chosen agreeably

*The Committee of the General Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States, to confer on the subject of union, consisted of the following fifteen members, namely :

From the Synod in the United States.—Revs. Emanuel V. Gerhart, D. D., John H. A. Bomberger, D. D., and Elder Levi Fluck.

From the Ohio Synod.—Revs. Isaac H. Reiter, D. D., Samuel Mease, D. D. and George W. Williard, D. D.

From the Synod of the Northwest.—Revs. Herman J. Ruetenik, D. D., Charles T. Martin and S. Nevin L. Kessler.

From the Pittsburg Synod.—Revs. George B. Russell, D. D., John I. Swander and Franklin K. Levan.

From the Synod of the Potomac.—Revs. Jacob O. Miller, D. D., Edmund R. Eschbach and Elder Israel Loucks.

They were all present at the joint-meeting except Rev. Charles T. Martin.

Stated Clerk.

to the instructions of the General Synod of Cincinnati, by each one of the five District Synods, convened in the Reformed Church, on Race Street, Philadelphia, on Tuesday, the 17th of November, A. D. 1874, and was organized by the election of the Rev. Emanuel V. Gerhart, D. D., as Chairman, and the Rev. Isaac H. Reiter, D. D., as Secretary. According to previous arrangement the Committees of the two denominations met in joint session on Wednesday morning, the two Chairmen presiding together.

Of the Committee of our sister Reformed Church, nine out of eighteen members were in attendance. This General Synod was fully represented, only one member being absent. On Wednesday afternoon each Committee held a separate meeting by itself. These meetings were followed by another joint session, which was continued for several hours, and concluded with the appointment of a sub-Committee, charged with the duty of drafting a report.

The final joint session was held on Thursday forenoon, when the report of the sub-Committee was received and adopted. This report embodies the general result of the inquiries and deliberations of the conference, and is herewith submitted.

From this report it will be seen that the Union Conference did not issue in any positive action. Your Committee introduced the outlines of a basis of organic union between these two sister Churches. An endeavor was made also to open a fraternal discussion of points of doctrinal difference with a view of arriving at a better mutual understanding, and thus of establishing closer Church relations. But the attempt to initiate any movement which might terminate in some positive result met with no response from the members of the other Committee. On the contrary, the consideration of the question of an organic connection of any kind between these two branches of the Reformed Church was, in the judgment of the brethren of the Reformed Church in America, premature.

Respectfully submitted,

EMANUEL V. GERHART, *Chairman.*

ISAAC H. REITER, *Secretary.*

The following, to which reference is made in the preceding report, is the

Report of the Joint Committees of Conference.

The Committees of Conference appointed by the General Synods of the Reformed Church in the United States and the Reformed Church in America met in Philadelphia on the morning of November 18th, 1874, and spent in joint session the greater part of that day and the forenoon of the day following. After a very free and brotherly interchange of information concerning the organization, symbols, doctrinal sentiments and usages of the two denominations, the Committees agreed upon the following statement of the results of their conference :

1. Such large and obvious elements of likeness and sympathy as subsist between the two bodies seem to point very plainly to some ultimate union between them. They are almost identical in name, as in origin and in early history. Their ecclesiastical organization and nomenclature of consistory, classis, synod, and general synod, are substantially the same. One venerable symbol, the Heidelberg Catechism, is held in common by the two denominations. The body of doctrine which either Church derives from this common symbol, of necessity has close and fundamental resemblances. The Committees have found, moreover, a perfect unity of method and spirit in the devotional acts which they have performed together; and their whole interview has reminded them of the essential unity of their work of caring for those Continental Christians of the Reformed faith who are so widely distributed over the newer parts of our country. With these and similar points of contact between the two bodies, the Committees can not believe that they will abide apart.

2. The Committees have further found with gratification that some elements of seeming difference between their two denominations, have, upon fuller information concerning them, lost much of their apparent importance. In particular, the usage of confirmation prevails in the Reformed Church in the United States and is unknown in the Reformed Church in America, but as it is interpreted in the Constitution of the first-named Church, it is plain that it may fully consist with the principles and methods by which the other Church admits her baptized youth to full communion. It does not appear, therefore, that the continuance

of that usage on one side or the abstinence from it on the other, ought to be a decisive obstacle to union. The observance of festal religious days in the Reformed Church in the United States, though very general, is not enjoined, and therefore stands upon the same footing with the same observance as it prevails, though to a less extent, in the Reformed Church in America. Even such divergences as may exist in the matter of liturgical services, so long as they might not be seen to turn upon important differences of doctrinal belief, might be harmoniously adjusted. The Committees, indeed, have little doubt that all the minor elements of difference which have grown up in the two Churches, during their separate life, could either be softened or accommodated in a cordial and intelligent attempt to bring these Reformed Churches under a single banner.

3. The Committees, however, are constrained to say that some other obstacles to union seem to be of a less manageable character. The most patent of these lies in the fact that while both of these denominations accept the Heidelberg Catechism, the Reformed Church in America adds to this symbol the Belgic Confession and the Canons of the Synod of Dort. In order, therefore, to an organic union of the two bodies, the one or the other would be compelled to make a material change in its doctrinal standards. Since neither Committee feels prepared to advise its Synod to make so important a concession, they can only agree in making a frank statement of this difficulty, in the hope that time and the best wisdom of the two denominations, and, above all, the providence of God, may direct to its just solution. In addition to this, the probable fact that a body made up of these two denominations would include important differences in doctrinal views and ecclesiastical feeling, has appeared during the conference. These obstacles seem to preclude any further present negotiations in the direction of organic union. The Committees, in conclusion, are fully persuaded that although their interview has developed no plan or distinct prospect of the organic union of their two Churches, a real advance toward that most desirable result has been made in the frank and friendly conference which has now been held. The difficulty of merging denominations so old and so well established could not be expected to be small. It is something gained to be able to see at what point the obstacles are greatest. Not less valuable is that cultivation of broth-

erly acquaintance, esteem and sympathy which the conference has greatly furthered. The ultimate issue of their interview the Committees intrust to Christ, the one Head of the Universal Church, in the faith that he has kindled in these sister denominations the desire of union, and that he will not suffer the desire utterly to fail.

Respectfully submitted,

EMANUEL V. GERHART, *Chairman*,
ISAAC H. REITER, *Secretary*, of
Committee of Reformed Church in the United States.

HARVEY D. GANSE, *Chairman*,
EDWARD T. CORWIN, *Secretary*, of
Committee of Reformed Church in America.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., November 19, 1874.

V. Œcumenical Council of Presbyterian Churches.

The Committee on Overtures, during the morning session of the fourth day of the sessions, in item 1, reported a communication from a Committee of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, requesting this General Synod to consider the expediency of holding an Œcumenical Council of Presbyterian Churches, and, if this Synod approve of such Council, to appoint a Committee of Conference to meet a similar Committee appointed by the said General Assembly.

This overture was referred to a Special Committee, consisting of Revs. John H. A. Bomberger, D. D., Emanuel V. Gerhart, D. D., and Elder George Hill.

This Committee, during the afternoon session of the last day of the sessions, submitted their report, which was received, discussed and adopted; and is as follows:

The Committee to whom was referred the overture from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, inviting this General Synod and the Church represented by it, to participate in a proposed Œcumenical Council of Reformed Churches holding Presbyterian principles, beg leave to submit the following as suitable action to be taken by this body:

Resolved, That the General Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States contemplates with much satisfaction the various

movements looking toward a closer union of Reformed Churches related to one another by the inner ties of affinity in doctrine and government, and finds special reason for cordial interest in the proposed Council of Presbyterian Churches as being a movement tending to bind together still more closely those Churches which hold the Westminster standard of faith.

Resolved, That inasmuch as the Reformed Church in the United States represented by this General Synod recognizes no Confession as possessing binding authority but the Heidelberg Catechism, whilst the Œcumenical Council proposes by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, in the paper laid before us, respects only those Reformed Churches holding by the Westminster standards, it is not in our judgment relevant to the character and object of this movement of the Presbyterian Church that this General Synod appoint delegates to represent the Reformed Church in the United States in the proposed Œcumenical Council.

Resolved, That it accords with the views and desires of this body to have proper arrangements made for a convention of Reformed Churches made on a broader basis, that is to say, a Council of Churches holding in common the recognized symbols of the Reformed branch of the Evangelical Protestant Church, and that we will co-operate with any suitable measures which may be proposed to effect such a convention.

Resolved, That the officers of General Synod be instructed to communicate this action to the Committee of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN H. A. BOMBERGER,
EMANUEL V. GERHART,
GEORGE HILL,

Committee.

VI. Election of Delegates to Corresponding Bodies.

To the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America—Rev. Thomas G. Apple, D. D., *primarius*; Rev. Edmund R. Eschbach, *secundus*.

To the General Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church—Rev. Daniel Gans, D. D., *primarius*; Rev. Joel T. Rossiter, *secundus*.

To the Triennial Synod of the Moravian Church—Rev. Charles H. Leinbach, *primarius*; Rev. David Van Horne, *secundus*.

To the Evangelical Synod of the West—Rev. Herman Rust, D. D., *primarius*; Rev. John H. Klein, D. D., *secundus*.

ARTICLE XII.

STATE OF THE CHURCH.

The Standing Committee on the State of the Church submitted their report, which was received and adopted :

We praise thee, O God ! We acknowledge thee to be the Lord. All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting. Thine adorable, true, and only Son ; also the Holy Ghost, the Comforter. Amen.

Fathers and Brethren : Meeting in General Synod only triennially our coming together makes relatively but a short *stadium* in the history of the Reformed Church.

OF HISTORY.

Through the interval passed since our last Assembly we have suffered continuous tribulation. This threshing by the Divine hand, to us indeed has, for the time, seemed not joyous, but grievous. Yet, in it, has there also doubtless been blessing, working afterward the peaceable fruits of righteousness.

When our Lord's disciples, whom he had sent out to preach in his name through the cities of Judea, returned, they reported that even the devils were subject unto them. So, too, the apostles came together at Antioch and rehearsed what the Lord had done by their ministry among the cities of the Gentiles. In like manner we are permitted to testify, that while his ministers preach the gospel in his name, the Lord is working with them, confirming the word with signs following.

Adverse circumstances and opposing forces do not in themselves hinder the Divine presence working the perpetual miracle of grace in the operations of the Church. Amid all the strife of bitter controversy, the antagonism of contrary tendencies, and the disheartening influences at work in our Zion, our bulwarks have neither been broken down, nor even seriously weakened.

FAITH AND PATIENCE.

Christian faith and courage have given us a strength equal to our day. Remarkable endurance and patience have characterized the life of the Church during the period under review. While pressed with sore trials all parts of the Church have stood firm. What might have seemed to some more than enough to rend, divide and dissolve into dismembered fragments other bodies, has failed to de-

stroy the bond of common life and fellowship of love holding in the general apprehension of our Reformed faith. No one is found in all our borders who gives up any part of our creed and customs. Rather each and all in the whole denomination claim to be faithful and true to the standards of the Reformed Church. Honesty of purpose and zeal for pure doctrine and good works may be the occasion, indeed, for sharp contention of some, with the difference of convictions which prevail in others.

FRUITS.

Growth has been made. New ecclesiastical territory has been occupied. New Synods and new Classes have been formed. New parishes have been organized, and large old pastoral charges were divided and made stronger. Improved styles of church architecture prevail in the many fine new houses of worship built, and old edifices remodeled. Benevolent and educational institutions have grown in endowments and internal strength. Publications have increased. The streams of Christian beneficence have not dried up as water in the desert sands. The number of ministers and members has increased. These all are signs of life and vigor in the body.

The pure word of the gospel has been faithfully preached, and the holy sacraments were administered and used with the encouraging results given by the several Synods. Catechisation, confirmation, the main festivals of the Church year, and such other peculiar customs as characterize this branch of the old Reformed family in the days of the fathers, are steadily held in honor and are very generally observed. While many from year to year are taken hence to the Church triumphant in the world beyond the grave, others are enlisted in larger numbers into the ranks of the militant Church in which we yet hold our place.

GERMAN ELEMENT.

Among the marked features of the present state of the Church, we may notice, as compared with the past, the growing strength and efficiency of practical organization in the German element. Large prosperity now takes the place of what was lately, in many places, only struggling weakness. The German life, true to its characteristic love for the free apprehension of its historical inheritance from the fatherland, is, in its deepest sense, churchly. This element is growing into a more self-conscious expression of unity in the Reformed Church of the United States. German congregations,

Classes, Synods, publications, and institutions are destined to work much more successfully in the near future for developing this right arm of our denominational strength. In this one source of growth alone, there is incalculable promise of increase and Christian usefulness for us as a branch of the Reformed Church.

HOPEFUL PROSPECTS.

Indications are at hand from which we may hope for the speedy dawning of a better day. The storm, we would fain believe, is abating. Its violence, at least, is spent. And through the rift in the clouds, the eye of faith discerns the morning star, the harbinger of the day itself which approaches. The oak that survives the strain upon its limbs and trunk, bowing for the time to the stress of the winds, only strikes its roots deeper into the soil, and is made stronger by every test of its endurance. That the Reformed Church has not been even shattered, much less broken into fragments, is itself a good sign of its Christian powers and evidence of its hopeful life. The vitality that can survive the shocks to which we have been subjected partakes of divine power. Under the blessing of our gracious Lord, the Germanic character, the conservative life, the free and forbearing spirit of Christian charity, and the evangelical faith of the Reformed Church in the United States, give us hope for continued unity, increasing prosperity, and triumphant peace.

THANKSGIVING.

For what we have received of mercy, in the midst of deserved wrath; for the preservation of our ecclesiastical unity; for the Church love and Church work growing out of unfeigned love to Christ manifest in ministers and people; for the measure of success crowning the feeble work already done; for the hopeful prospect of the opening future, and for the blessed assurance of our acceptance in the Beloved in the day and at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, we, in the voice of this Synod, join in this public expression of hearty thanksgiving to Almighty God.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, grace, mercy and peace be with us all. Amen.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE B. RUSSELL, *Chairman.*

(*For Statistical Reports see Appendix.*)

ARTICLE XIII.

MISSIONS.

The following reports on the subject of Missions, both Home and Foreign, claimed the attention of the General Synod, namely:

*I. The Triennial Reports.**1. Report of Board of Home Missions.*

The undersigned begs leave to represent to the General Synod, that being one of the members elected to the Board of Home Missions, it seems to devolve upon him to state the following facts:

At four different times, since the last meeting of the General Synod, efforts were made to organize the said Board; but owing to various circumstances there was no quorum of members ever brought together, and so we have not effected an organization of the Board of Home Missions. This, therefore, leaves us without power to make a formal report in their name.

Widely scattered as were the members, the long journeys and great uncertainty as to whether it were worth while to attend, doubtless prevented the presence of some at the several meetings called. This evil may possibly be removed in the election to be held for members to constitute the new Board.

One of the late members, the Rev. Daniel Zacharias, D. D., was called from his long and faithful service to his eternal rest. We offer this simple record as a fraternal tribute from the General Synod to his memory.

Probably one main reason why no more interest was manifest in the organization of the Board is the fact that the work of Home Missions, practically, had been transferred by the former Board to the auxiliary Boards of the District Synods. This was ratified and tacitly approved by the General Synod, at Cincinnati, Ohio.

It would still have been right and proper, we conceive, for these auxiliary Boards, however, to report the results of their missionary operations to this Board of the General Synod. The Church would not only thus gain a full and authentic knowledge of its mission work, but this itself could then be regarded as both orderly and regular in accordance with the plain provisions of the organic law expressed in the Constitution.

As far as we know there has been no lack of interest in the work

of missions, nor any failure on the part of the people to show their love for the cause. The main trouble has arisen from the fragmentary condition of the mission organizations, together with sectional sympathies and kindred causes. These have destroyed temporarily the unity of operations under the General Synod.

The special item of business which came into our hands by the action of this body, is an application from Rev. Henry Hanhart for the payment of an old standing balance on the appropriation to his salary. We suggest that, as the books and accounts of the old Board are not at hand, this whole matter be referred for adjudication and final settlement to the incoming Board.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. B. RUSSELL, *of the Board of Home Missions.*

2. Report of Treasurer of Board of Church Extension.

GEO. GELBACH, *Treasurer of Church Extension Fund, in account with General Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States.*

Amounts received from December 1, 1872, to May 1, 1875.

DR.

Classis of East Pennsylvania.....	\$122 38
“ Goshenhoppen	249 60
“ Philadelphia.....	471 00
“ Lebanon.....	2,124 56
“ East Susquehanna.....	245 42
“ West “	161 41
“ New York.....	25 00
“ Zion.....	12 00
“ Maryland	10 00
Synod of the Potomac.....	232 00
Elder W. T. Albert, Pueblo, Colorado.....	4 50

CR.

	\$3,657 87
By amount paid from December 1, 1872, to May 1, 1875...\$4,330 29	
Five years' interest on \$944, being amount paid to former	
Treasurer, April 8, 1870.....	283 20
	<hr/> 4,613 49
May 1, 1875. Balance due Treasurer.....	\$955 62

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE GELBACH, *Treasurer.*

The undersigned hereby testify that they have compared the foregoing account with the vouchers, and find the same correct.

NICHOLAS GEHR.

FRANKLIN K. LEVAN.

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, May 17, 1875.

3. *Report of Board of Foreign Missions.*

To the General Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States.

Fathers and Brethren:—The Board of Foreign Missions would respectfully present the following report:

Two and a half years have rolled away since our appointment by your reverend body. Years of vast moment in the history of our race. Events have occurred of great significance, indicating clearly, to the eye of faith, the design of Divine Providence, to open the door for the truth as it is in Jesus, in order that the whole earth may receive his blessed gospel. The fulfillment of the promise made to his Son, "That the heathen should become his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth his possession," seems to be at hand. To take part in this great work is the anxious desire of every truly regenerated heart. From the commencement of her existence in this country, our branch of the Church has had in view her solemn duty to the "regions beyond." For a long period her contributions were given to the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions, who applied them mainly to the support of an honored missionary, a minister in connection with our Church. As the Church came to a fuller consciousness of her responsibility, the idea of instituting a mission of her own, became a subject of anxious inquiry. After much discussion, the General Synod, with great unanimity, came to the conclusion that such a mission should be inaugurated, and accordingly instructed the Board to proceed in the matter. The Board, fully aware of the sentiment of the Church, as expressed by the General Synod, met in the city of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, April 15, 1873, and after organization took the whole subject into serious and earnest consideration. It was highly favored with the presence and counsel of the Rev. Dr. Ferris, Corresponding Secretary of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church of America, and Rev. Dr. Schneider, of Broosa, Asia Minor. These brethren added greatly to the interest of the meeting, and gave much valuable information in relation to missionary work in the foreign field. After much deliberation the Board selected Japan. Various considerations induced the Board in its choice. First, the "open door" there presented for missionary work; second, the favor with which the Japanese Government regarded missionaries; third, its expressed desire to have well qualified educators from the United States; fourth, the Reformed Church in America had already es-

tablished missions there, and were willing to afford our Church any assistance and co-operation that might be desired; and, lastly, the impression, amounting almost to a certainty, that we could rally our whole Church in such a work, provided a suitable person could be found, and means procured to inaugurate the movement, beyond the possibility of a failure. At that meeting the most delightful harmony prevailed, and the conclusions were reached with great unanimity. It seemed to our warm hearts and strengthened faith, that we would be able to enter the field "white for the harvest." The Executive Committee, by authority of the Board, issued the following circular, addressed to every Classis in the bounds of our Church:

To the Reverend Classis of.....

BELOVED BRETHREN:—The undersigned Executive Committee of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in the United States, beg leave to lay before your reverend body the following action of the Board, adopted at their late meeting:

Resolved, That, in the opinion of the Board, Japan presents the most promising field for missionary effort on our part, and we, therefore, instruct the Executive Committee to obtain the information necessary to enable us to make an intelligent selection of a base of operations.

Resolved, That the Executive Committee take immediate steps to secure suitable persons to engage in the missionary work.

The Committee would also earnestly urge upon your reverend body the importance of immediate and energetic measures to raise funds in all our charges to inaugurate with vigor the blessed work of missions in the promising field of Japan, now providentially open to Christianity. The Committee would suggest that, in addition to collections, it would be well for your reverend body to urge upon all our congregations the establishment of the monthly concert of prayer; the organization of missionary societies; and also to encourage individual donations and legacies.

May God inspire our entire Church with a deep solicitude for the salvation of the benighted and perishing multitudes in foreign lands, and crown with his favor and blessing our humble efforts in their behalf.

This circular was signed by the Executive Committee.

As far as the Board has learned, favorable action was taken, and the subject received some consideration. It is possible that if the

Board had been able to announce positively that a mission had been established, that the great heart of the Church would have beat with joy, and the response would have been commensurate with the demand. But in the providence of God obstacles were interposed, which prevented the Board from making any further progress in that direction; the most serious of which was a change in the policy of the Japanese Government, which hedged up the way, and rendered it impracticable to undertake the work. Another very cogent reason was the disastrous results of the monetary panic which has swept over our country, seriously affecting trade, diminishing benevolent contributions, and rendering it difficult to properly sustain our home interests. In view of these, and other reasons, the Board has not seen its way clear to inaugurate a mission in any place; nor does it believe that in the present condition of the Church that such a course would be wise. The work is of too much magnitude to risk a failure. Hence, after due deliberation, the Board has resolved to submit the following paper to the favorable consideration of the General Synod:

Inasmuch as the foreign missionary operations of the German Evangelical Missionary Society, in the United States, are carried on successfully among the Sathnamies in Bistrampore, Raepore District, India, and as the founder of that mission, the Rev. Oscar Lohr, is a member of the New York Classis, and his associate, the Rev. J. Hauser, a member of the Sheboygan Classis, in regular connection with the Reformed Church in the United States, and as ministers and congregations of our Church, especially the Germans, are greatly interested in this foreign mission field since its organization, and give their contributions in that direction; and since the pre-ent state of the Church does not warrant to commence a foreign mission of our own, with a view to carry it on successfully, and give it all the support such a mission would require, and as the money in the treasury lies idle, doing no good for the cause of Christ in the foreign mission field; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we recommend to the General Synod to instruct the Treasurer of the Board of Foreign Missions to pay one thousand dollars to the Treasurer of the German Evangelical Missionary Society in the United States for the mission in Bistrampore; and, further, that the General Synod instruct its Board of Foreign Missions to appoint three commissioners who shall confer with the Executive Board of the German Evangelical Missionary Society with

regard to a plan of co-operation, and authorize them to draw up such a plan in connection with that Board; and in case they should agree upon a plan of co-operation, it shall be presented to our Board of Foreign Missions, and they are authorized to confirm or reject the same. In case the plan of co-operation is confirmed by both Boards, it be

Resolved, That the Treasurer of the Board of Foreign Missions pay to the Treasurer of the German Evangelical Missionary Society, annually, the sum at least of two hundred and fifty dollars for every foreign missionary belonging to our Church, and laboring in Hindoostan among the Sathnamies and other tribes; and, further,

Resolved, That the Board of Foreign Missions be instructed to pay five hundred dollars for the outfit of every foreign missionary of our Church, who is willing to be sent to the mission field to labor with Rev. O. Lohr, or under his direction, and that both Boards jointly commission him; and, further,

Resolved, That as soon as three or four missionaries of our Church are connected with that Mission, they be instructed, with the consent of the Executive Board of the German Evangelical Missionary Society, to organize a Classis in connection with the Reformed Church in the United States; and, further,

Resolved, That the Executive Board of the German Evangelical Missionary Society be requested to report annually to the Board of Foreign Missions of the General Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States.

The Board seemed to be in favor of this plan; first, because it is an open door to a field already inaugurated, known to many in the Church, and has received contributions from many of our charges; second, two of the ministers laboring there as missionaries are in connection with our Church; third, the probability that we could enter at once upon the work, and gain a status in the foreign field, and thereby be the better prepared for other openings as they might occur. The reflex influence of embarking in this movement would arouse the missionary spirit, and stimulate all the enterprises of the Church. The Treasurer's report, which is herewith transmitted, will show that the Board has, in accordance with the instructions of the Synod, paid over the amount specified to the German Evangelical Missionary Society, and that there is a balance in the treasury of four thousand three hundred and fifty dollars and ninety cents. The Treasurer has carefully husbanded the funds, and generously in-

creased the same to their present amount. Trusting that this great and vital subject will receive your prayerful consideration, and that you may be constrained, by the love of Christ, and the special influence of the Holy Ghost, to present such a plan of operation as will elicit the warm response of our whole Church, and unite all in the blessed work of bringing the world into the kingdom of our ascended Lord, we remain your fellow-laborers in Christ Jesus.

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS S. JOHNSTON, *President.*

4. Report of Treasurer of Foreign Missions.

RUDOLPH F. KELKER, *Treasurer of the Board of Foreign Missions of the General Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States, in account with said Board.*

1872.		DR.	
Nov.	27	To amount on hand, reported to General Synod, convened at Cincinnati, Ohio, three thousand three hundred and thirty-one dollars and seventy-four cents,	\$3,331 74
Dec.	5	"A lady friend of missions," per Rev. C. A. Limberg, Butler, Pa.,	10 00
1873.			
Feb.	28	"M.," Reading, Berks County, Pa.,	5 00
Mar.	12	"A friend," St. John's Church, Allentown, Pa., per Rev. S. G. Wagner,	7 00
	31	"A member of St. John's Church," Chambersburg, Pa.,	1 00
May	13	Lady member, Cavetown Church, Md., per Rev. J. W. Santee,	1 00
May	19	Family of Rev. J. H. Schlappig, per G. Hill, Treasurer of East Susquehanna Classis,	5 00
June	14	Evangelical Reformed Church, Ebenezer, N. Y., for field in Japan, per Rev. J. Knie,	18 00
July	4	Rev. Geo. Leidy, Norristown, Pa.,	20 00
"	12	Ebenezer Church, Waukon, Iowa, per Rev. C. Lienkaemper,	10 00
"	25	Rev. Geo. Kurtzman, Minnesota, mission festival, per Rev. Schoepfle,	6 00
"	"	Rev. C. H. Schoepfle, from Sunday-school, Lacrosse, Wis.,	73
Aug.	5	First Reformed Church, Fort Wayne, Ind., per Rev. F. R. Schwedes,	12 50
"	12	Mt. Etna Reformed Church, Lebanon Classis, Pa., per Rev. G. Wolff, D. D.,	9 27
"	27	Rev. J. Sechler's Charge, Hanover, Pa.,	14 70
Sept.	12	Reformed Church, Lacrosse, Wis., per Rev. C. H. Schoepfle,	10 00
"	13	"Friend of missions," Mt. Pleasant Charge, Pa.,	2 00
"	17	"An aged lady," Galion, O., per Rev. H. Williard,	1 00
"	22	"Union Sunday-school," Adams County (name of sender to be withheld),	5 00
"	25	First Reformed Church, Tiffin, per Rev. L. H. Kefauver,	15 00
Oct.	1	Rev. Geo. Leidy, Norristown, Pa.,	50 00
"	"	Children of Washington and Phœbe Johnson, Harbaugh's Congregation, Cavetown, Md., per Pastor, Rev. J. W. Santee,	7 00

Carried over,

\$3,541 94

1873		Amount brought forward,	\$3,541 94
Oct.	1	Sunday-school First Reformed Church, Lebanon, Pa., Rev. Dr. Kremer, Pastor, J. L. Lemberger, Treasurer,	25 00
"	6	J. Kuhn, Shelby, O., per Rev. N. H. Loose,	5 00
"	8	H. Wirt, Esq., Treasurer Eastern Synod, interest on "Gerhart" donation,	9 90
"	17	Col. H. Forney, Treasurer Sys. Benevolent Fund, North Carolina Classis, per Rev. J. C. Clapp, Newton, N. C.,	4 25
Nov.	1	Reformed Churches under care of Rev. D. Willers, Fayette, N. Y.,	8 50
"	29	Elder W. D. Gross, Phila., moneys received by him from Rev. B. R. Huecker, Lacrosse, Wis., viz: Zion's Church, Mt. Prairie, Minn., \$10 00 John Schild, Unalasky, Wis., 1 00 Immanuel's Church, Giard, Ia., Pastor Fuerer, 5 00	16 00
"	"	Elder W. D. Gross, Phila., his own contribution,	14 00
1874.			
Jan.	1	Reformed Sunday-school, Big Creek, Pa., per A. Bar- tholomew, Superintendent,	6 00
"	12	John Kessler, Pa., per Rev. B. Bausman, D. D.,	1 00
"	16	Salem Church, Zion Charge, Seneca County, O., per Rev. J. A. Keller,	8 60
"	23	Zion's Charge, Fulton County, O., Rev. P. Kohl, Pastor,	5 00
Feb.	6	Rev. S. R. Fisher, D. D., Phila., moneys received by him, viz:—L. B. Dutterrow, \$7 00 V. Schneider, Punxatawny, Pa., self \$3; each child, 25 cents, 75 cents, 3 75 Wm. Reynolds, Cavetown, Md., 1 00 St. Paul's Sunday-school, Lehighon, Pa., 4 00 Conrad Winkler, Richmond, Ind., 5 00 Goshenhoppen Charge, Pa., Pastor C. Z. Weiser, per D. B. Mauger, 25 00 Adalaide Dechant, Montgomery County, Pa., 5 00 E. Dieffenbacher, Edwardsburg, Mich., 5 00 Buckville Charge, Bucks County, Pa., Pastor D. Rothrock, per D. B. Mauger, 41 00	96 75
April	20	Walck's Sunday-school, Lehighon, Pa., per Pastor A. Bartholomew,	2 10
May	4	Lenhartville Charge, Pa., per Pastor Rev. B. Weiss,	17 50
"	9	Sunday-school, Conadogly Church, York County, Pa., Pastor R. Rahausen,	11 50
July	20	Zion's Charge, Ai., Fulton County, O., Pastor, Peter Kohl,	5 00
Aug.	27	J. Ermentrout's Sunday-school Class, Reading, Pa.,	2 00
"	28	"Friend," received in letter mailed at Frederick, Md.,	5 00
Sept.	4	First Reformed Sunday-school, Easton, Pa., Rev. J. Beck, D. D., Pastor,	30 00
"	18	Through Rev. Prof. R. Good, viz: Shelby, Warren and East Union Charges, O., \$14 69 Elder Jacob Kuhn, Shelby, O., 5 00	19 69
"	29	Sunday-school Bethel Church, York, Pa., Pastor Jacob Sechler,	10 75
Oct.	14	Sunday-school First Reformed Church, Lebanon, Pa., Rev. Dr. Kremer, per J. S. Lemberger, Treasurer,	25 00
Carried over,			\$3,870 48

1874		Amount brought forward,	\$3,870 48
Oct.	16	Congregations of Rev. D. Willers, D. D., Seneca County, N. Y.,	10 25
"	22	Through Rev. J. W. Santee, Cavetown, Md., viz: Blanche B. Johnson, \$3; G. W. Johnson, \$3; both under six years, . . . \$6 00 Hannah K. Santee, aged nine years, . . . 2 00	8 00
Dec.	8	Sunbury, Pa., Reformed Sunday-school, per G. Hill, Treasurer East Susquehanna Classis, . . .	1 68
1875.			
Jan.	2	St. Paul's Sunday-school, Big Creek, Pa., Rev. A. Bartholomew,	6 00
"	4	Sunday-school, New Holland, Pa., Rev. D. W. Gerhard, Pastor,	11 27
"	5	Miss A. Dechant, Pennsboro, Pa., per Rev. S. R. Fisher, D. D.,	5 00
"	15	Canadogly Sunday-school, York County, Pa., Rev. R. Rahauser,	11 32
"	22	Sunday-school, Cavetown, Md., Rev. J. W. Santee,	6 00
"	26	Walck's Sunday-school, Lehigh County, Pa., Rev. A. Bartholomew,	4 00
"	27	Elder Ube, Eden Congregation, Rev. D. G. Klein, Pastor, for use of Rev. Oscar Lohr, Bistrampore, India, per Rev. U. H. Heilman, . . .	5 00

INTEREST ACCOUNT.

\$3,939 00

Balance reported to General Synod, November 27, 1873, . . .	\$3,331 74
Interest on same to April 15, 1873, sent to German Evangelical Foreign Missionary Society, New York, J. W. Miller, Esq., Treasurer, . . .	\$76 61
Interest on aforesaid balance, from April 15, 1873, to April 28, 1875, compounded yearly, . . .	419 91
Receipts from November 27, 1872, to April 15, 1873, sent to J. W. Miller, Treasurer German Evan- gelical Missionary Society, . . .	23 00
Receipts from April 15, 1873, to October 15, 1873, . . .	227 10
Interest thereon from October 15, 1873, to April 28, 1875, compounded, . . .	21 36
Receipts from October 15, 1873, to April 15, 1874, . . .	160 10
Interest thereon from April 15, 1874, to April 28, 1875, compounded, . . .	9 97
Receipts from April 15, 1874, to October 15, 1874, . . .	128 54
Interest thereon from October 15, 1874, to April 28, 1875, . . .	4 12
Receipts from October 15, 1874, to April 28, 1875, . . .	68 52
Total receipts, including former balance, . . .	\$3,939 00
To total amount of interest accrued, . . .	\$531 97
	\$4,470 97

1873.

CR.

April 15	By cash paid to J. W. Miller, Esq., Treasurer of German Evangelical Foreign Missionary Society, No. 41 Seventh Street, N. Y., viz:	
	Interest on fund reported to Synod, from November 27, 1872, to April 15, 1873, .	\$76 61
	Also amount of contributions, received from November 27, 1872, to April 15, 1873, .	23 00
		<hr/> \$99 61
May	By cash paid postage on circulars and expressage on Minute Book to Secretary of Board, .	1 75
July 8	By cash paid Theo. F. Scheffer, for blank book, for use of Secretary, and printing circulars, .	4 25
1875.		
April 20	By J. W. Miller, Esq., Treasurer German Evangelical Missionary Society, the contribution of Elder Peter Uhl for Rev. Oscar Lohr, Bismarck, India, .	5 00
" 28	By cash paid Rev. T. S. Johnston, D. D., traveling expenses, in all, .	5 40
" "	By cash paid Rev. F. W. Kremer, D. D., traveling expenses, in all, .	4 06
	Balance in hands of Treasurer, four thousand three hundred and fifty dollars and ninety cents, .	4,350 90
		<hr/> \$4,470 97

Respectfully submitted,

RUDOLPH F. KELKER, *Treasurer.*

We, the undersigned, a Committee appointed to examine and audit the above account of the Treasurer of the Board of Foreign Missions of the General Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States, do hereby certify that we have attended to the said duty and have found the said account correct, and that the balance due to the said Board, by the said Treasurer, this twenty-eighth day of April, 1875, is four thousand three hundred and fifty dollars and ninety cents.

Witness our hands at Harrisburg, April 28, 1875.

WM. D. GROSS, }
WM. H. SEIBERT, } *Committee.*

II. Report of Committee on Missions.

The Standing Committee on Home and Foreign Missions submitted their report, which was received, amended, and, together with the foregoing reports, adopted, and is as follows:

Your Committee on Home and Foreign Missions beg leave to offer the following:

We have carefully examined the papers placed in our hands. In regard to

Home Missions.

We learn that no organization of that Board has been effected since the meeting of the Synod at Cincinnati. This is much to be regretted, as the Constitution of the Church calls for such General Board to manage our missionary work, and we regard it important that the provision of the Constitution be complied with, so long as it is the law of the Church.

We learn also that there is due the Treasurer of Church Extension the sum of nine hundred and fifty-five dollars and sixty-two cents. We would, therefore, propose the following resolutions :

Resolved, That in view of the fact that the amount due the Treasurer of Church Extension has been provided for, the Treasurer be instructed to pay any deficiency out of the treasury of the General Synod.

Resolved, That the home missionary work is among the most important of our Church enterprises.

Resolved, That this Synod desires this good work to be vigorously pressed forward by its General Board, through the subordinate Boards of District Synods and Classes, and to have full statistics published in our Minutes.

Resolved, That we recommend to our pastors to preach upon the subject of missions at least once a year, and urge our people to contribute liberally to this good cause.

Foreign Missions.

The work of foreign missions, so far as we have had any active agency in it, has been carried forward since our last meeting through the German Evangelical Missionary Society in the United States. Rev. Oscar Lohr, a member of New York Classis, and Rev. J. Hauser, of the Sheboygan Classis, are laboring under the direction of the above-named Society in India, and have been supported in part by contributions from our branch of the Church. Though no report has been sent to us of their labors, it is believed they have been successful in their work.

The General Board of this Synod recommends that we devote all our missionary funds to the support of missions in India, under the care of the German Evangelical Missionary Society. We are convinced, however, that a majority of our people will support more

heartily and liberally a mission or missions under the direction of our own Board, than they will those under Boards not *amenable* to this Synod.

From the Treasurer's report it appears that we now have a fund of four thousand and three hundred and fifty dollars and ninety cents in the treasury.

In view of these and other considerations we propose the following:

Resolved, That we instruct our Board of Foreign Missions to take again into earnest and prayerful consideration the establishing of a mission or missions of our own, and to proceed at once in this direction.

Resolved, That the Board employ the funds now in the treasury in support of such mission or missions as they may establish, and to none other.

Resolved, That all our congregations be urged to make at least one contribution annually toward sending the gospel to the heathen.

In regard to the other papers referred to us, we have no recommendations to make, preferring to leave the disposition thereof to the wisdom and judgment of the Synod.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN W. LOVE, *Chairman*.

III. Election of Boards of Missions.

1. Board of Home Missions.

Revs William K. Zieber, D. D., George B. Russell, D. D., Edmund R. Eschbach, J. Spangler Kieffer, John B. Kniest, David E. Klopp, George H. Johnston, William H. H. Snyder, and Elders Charles Santee, Daniel W. Gross, William H. Seibert, and Christian M. Boush.

2. Board of Foreign Missions.

Revs. Charles H. Leiubach, John F. Busche, Thomas G. Apple, D. D., Nicholas Gehr, D. D., Joseph W. Santee, Alfred J. G. Dubbs, Thomas S. Johnston, D. D., John M. Titzel, and Elders William D. Gross, William H. Seibert, William E. Schmertz, and Thomas J. Craig.

ARTICLE XIV.

BENEVOLENT AND RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS.

I. Orphan Homes.

The Standing Committee on Orphan Homes submitted the following report, which was received and adopted:

To the General Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States:

Rev. Brethren: The Committee on Orphan Homes beg leave to state that no reports, neither from the Directors of the Orphan Homes nor from the Superintendents, have been placed in their hands, and that they are consequently unable to make any report respecting them, and now respectfully ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the matter.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. WM. WELKER, *Chairman.*

II. Election of Board of Directors of Orphan Homes.

Rev. George B. Russell, D. D., and Elder William D. Gross.

The members holding over are Elder Goldsboro S. Griffith (1869), and Rev. Jacob Dahlman and Elder William E. Schmertz (1872).

ARTICLE XV.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The Committee on Minutes of General Synod, in item 5, reported that the Board of Sunday-school Association was required to prepare for itself a Constitution, and to consider the propriety of establishing specific laws and rules for the government of our Sunday-schools, and of preparing Sunday-school lessons in harmony with the Heidelberg Catechism. Thereupon the Board submitted the following report, which was received and adopted:

We would report that immediately after their election, the present members held a meeting, and organized by the election of Rev. Geo. B. Russell, D. D., President, and Rev. David Van Horne, Secretary.

The Board was heartily willing and ready to go forward in the

general work falling into its hands. But in the present condition of affairs in the Church, it was found that nothing practically could be undertaken with any reasonable hope of success. Whatever we may be able to do in the Sunday-school work, for the present, can perhaps be accomplished by the local operations already engaged in this interest of the Church.

It will be for this General Synod to say whether this Board should be abolished or continued.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. B. RUSSELL, *President.*

After the adoption of the foregoing report, the following resolution, in regard to the Board of Sunday-school Association, and the general Sunday-school interest of the Reformed Church, was adopted:

Resolved, That the Board of Sunday-school Association of the General Synod be discontinued for the present, and that the Sunday-school interest be referred to the several District Synods, with an earnest recommendation of the general prosecution of the Sunday-school work.

ARTICLE XVI.

APPEALS AND REFERENCES.

I. The Appeal Case of St. John's Classis.

The Committee on Overtures, on the morning of the fourth day of the sessions, reported in item 5, that there were in their hands certain papers relating to the appeal and complaints of Rev. Ernest F. A. Schade for himself and St. John's Classis against the decision of the Ohio Synod in 1873, growing out of certain difficulties between St. John's and Eastern Ohio Classes; and in item 6, that papers were received relating to the appeal of Rev. Peter Greding in behalf of St. John's Classis against the decision of the Ohio Synod in 1874, having reference to the Louisville congregation in Stark County, Ohio.

Moreover, the Committee on the Minutes of the Ohio Synod, during the Saturday morning session, reported in item 12, that Rev. E. F. A. Schade, in behalf of himself and of the St. John's Classis, had appealed to the General Synod from the action of the Ohio Synod, in the difficulties between the Eastern Ohio and the St.

John's Classes; and in items 13 and 17, that the Ohio Synod had appointed Revs. Samuel B. Yockey, Peter C. Prugh and George M. Albright to defend it, in regard to the appeal and complaint cases of the St. John's Classis before the General Synod.

The aforesaid appeals and complaints, together with all the papers relating thereto, were referred to a Special Committee, consisting of Revs. Jeremiah H. Good, D. D., Simon S. Miller and Elder William A. Wilt, to examine whether the appeals and complaints be in order, and, if found in order, to report the manner in which it is to be taken up. This Committee, whose report was made the order of the day for Monday morning at the opening of the Synod, submitted their report at the appointed hour. It was received and unanimously adopted, and is as follows:

The undersigned, members of the Special Committee to whom were referred various items, referring to appeals and complaints from the decision of the Ohio Synod, by Rev. E. F. A. Schade and Rev. P. Greding, in behalf of St. John's Classis, unanimously report:

That upon a full and free conference between the representatives of the Eastern Ohio and the St. John's Classes, the appellants and other parties interested, the following has been agreed upon as a settlement of all the issues involved in the cases:

1. That Rev. Schade and Rev. Greding agree to withdraw all their appeals and complaints, if the General Synod will recommend the following as a compromise between the two Classes, the same having been agreed to by all the delegates of the two Classes and other persons interested:

(a) That the Eastern Ohio Classis agrees, for the sake of peace, to yield its rights in the case of the Salem's Congregation in Osna-burg Township, Stark County, Ohio, to the St. John's Classis, with the understanding that, so soon as the English language is introduced into the Salem's congregation, the same shall be transferred again to the Eastern Ohio Classis, and, furthermore, that the St. Martin's congregation shall be and remain a mixed congregation as respects language.

(b) That the St. John's Classis agrees to make no claim to the Louisville congregation, in Stark County, Ohio.

Respectfully submitted,

JEREMIAH H. GOOD,
SIMON S. MILLER,
WILLIAM A. WILT, } *Committee.*

II. *The Hanhart Appeal Case.*

The Committee on Overtures, during the morning session on Saturday, reported in item 7, that they had referred to them certain papers relating to the appeal of Rev. Henry Hanhart from the decision of the Ohio Synod in 1874.

Also the Committee on Minutes of the Ohio Synod, during the the same session, in item 15, reported that Revs. John Kuelling and Joshua H. Derr, as counsel for Rev. Henry Hanhart, had appealed in the case from the decision of the Ohio Synod to the General Synod; and in item 16, that Revs. Jer. H. Good, D. D., and Henry M. Herman were appointed to defend the Ohio Synod before the General Synod in regard to the said appeal case.

This appeal, together with all the papers pertaining thereto, was referred to a Special Committee, consisting of Revs. Marcus Bachman, Samuel A. Leinbach and Elder George G. Heilman, to examine whether the appeal was in order, and, if found in order, to report the manner in which it is to be considered. This Committee, during the morning session on Monday, submitted their report, which was received and adopted:

The Committee to whom was referred the appeal case of Rev. Henry Hanhart from the decision of the Ohio Synod respectfully report:

That they have examined the documents, and find them to be in order. They therefore would recommend that the appeal be heard in the following order:

1. That all the papers in the case be read.
2. That the appellant be allowed twenty minutes to open the case.
3. That the appellee have thirty minutes to respond.
4. That ten minutes be allowed the appellant to close.
5. That the vote be taken without debate.
6. That the consideration of the appeal be made the order of the day for Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Respectfully submitted,

MARCUS BACHMAN, *Chairman.*

At the appointed time, when the appeal was to be taken up for consideration, Rev. Joshua H. Derr, the counsel for the appellant, and Rev. Jeremiah H. Good, D. D., counsel for the Ohio Synod, both being present, submitted the following paper to the General

Synod, as a mutual and final adjustment of the whole matter, namely:

The counsel in the case of the appeal of the Rev. Henry Hanhart, from the proceedings of the consistory of the Reformed congregation of Covington, Kentucky, in the case of Elder H. W. Schlentker, and reaching this Synod in the way of appeal from the action of the Ohio Synod, have agreed to lay before this General Synod the following for its adoption, as a settlement of the case:

1. The lower court erred against Article 107 of the Constitution of the Reformed Church in the United States, by its proceedings with regard to this case.

2. In view, however, of the state of peace and prosperity of which we are assured as prevailing in the congregation in which this case originated, this Synod does not require further action on the part of the lower court concerned.

JOSHUA H. DERR, *for the appellant.*

JEREMIAH H. GOOD, *for the Ohio Synod.*

The Synod then proceeded to vote, and the report, as submitted by the counsel, was adopted.

ARTICLE XVII.

COMPLAINTS.

The Committee on the Minutes of the Synod of the Potomac, during the afternoon session on Friday, in item 4, reported under (a) a complaint by Rev. Frederick A. Rupley, as counsel, in behalf of Elder T. A. Rice, and (b) a complaint by the same as counsel in behalf of Elders John W. Birely, T. A. Rice and Isaac Cronise, against the action of the Synod of the Potomac, refusing to sustain a certain appeal and complaint, as stated in the Minutes of said Synod. (1874, pages 31-34.)

The aforesaid item, in its twofold form, was adopted by Synod, and immediately after its adoption the counsel (Rev. Jeremiah H. Good, D. D., and Rev. George W. Welker, D. D.) for the complainants, gave notice to the Synod that the complaints were withdrawn, and that no further action would be required.

ARTICLE XVIII.

CHURCH GOVERNMENT.

Contested Seat.

In making out the roll of the General Synod, when Lebanon Classis was reached, one of the *primarii* being absent, two of the *secundi* (Rev. Daniel B. Albright and Rev. George Wolff, D. D.) claimed the seat. The President decided that the case should be deferred until after the roll was completed. When the roll was completed, the case was taken up, and after several motions and considerable discussion, the following action was adopted :

Resolved, That Rev. Daniel B. Albright be allowed to take his seat as delegate on the *prima facie* evidence of the credentials furnished by the Stated Clerk, and the notification of the *primarius*, and that Rev. George Wolff, D. D., be allowed to contest his seat after the permanent organization of the General Synod.

Thereupon, Rev. Daniel B. Albright, as delegate *secundus* from Lebanon Classis, took his seat in Synod during the afternoon session on Thursday.

Condition of Admission of Delegates.

The following action, in regard to the admission of delegates to seats in the General Synod, was adopted :

Resolved, That, hereafter, before delegates to the General Synod can be admitted to seats, they must produce credentials from the proper authorities according to Article 28 of the Constitution, which this Synod interprets to mean the Stated Clerk of Classis, with a certified list of members belonging to said Classis at the time of the meeting of the General Synod, and also the time and place of holding the election.

Resolved, That the special attention of the Classes be called to this action, and also to the importance of procuring classical seals.

Matters to be Reported by Classes.

The following resolution was adopted :

Resolved, That the Classes be directed to instruct their respective Stated Clerks to report nothing in their abstracts sent up to the General Synod hereafter, except those matters claiming the special attention of General Synod.

Temporary Chairman of Boards Elect.

In regard to this, the following action was adopted:

Resolved, That the member, whose name appears first on the completed list of any of the Boards elect, be and is hereby authorized to act as Temporary Chairman in the convening and the organization of his respective Board.

The Form of Statistics to be Used.

The subjoined resolutions, with the view of securing greater uniformity and completeness in the statistics of the Church, were adopted:

Resolved, That the Stated Clerk and the Assistant Clerk of the General Synod be instructed to prepare a complete form on which to report the statistics for a Classis, with the number of headings and columns required by the Constitution, or any subsequent action of the General Synod, and furnish a copy of such forms in both the English and German languages to the several publication offices of the Church.

Resolved, That the Stated Clerks of the several Classes under this General Synod be requested to furnish blank copies of such forms to all the ministers in their respective Classes at the expense of each Classis, and that only such forms be used in reporting the statistics of the congregations to Classis.

The Revision of the Constitution.

The Committee on the Revision of the Constitution of the Reformed Church, referred to in item 7 in the report of the Committee on the Minutes of the General Synod, and to whom were referred certain proposed amendments, according to items 8 and 9 in said report, and item 3 in the report of the Committee on Overtures, submitted their report during the afternoon session of the last day of the sessions, for the consideration of Synod. The report was received and adopted, and is as follows:

The Committee appointed by this Synod, through the medium of the District Synods, to revise the Constitution of the Church, respectfully submit the following report:

The Committees of the District Synods met in the early portion of the sessions of this General Synod, in order to ascertain what work had been done by each of the Committees. The result of this first conference was, that, while each Committee had done something, yet no such revision of the Constitution had been reached as would be proper to present to this Synod for adoption. The Committee held a second meeting and devoted considerable time to the consideration of the subject. It was evident that nothing could be presented to this Synod by the Committee, except, perhaps, a statement of some fundamental principles according to which the revision of the Constitution should go forward. But the time allowed them for the consideration of such a scheme for the new Constitution was too short for them to prepare a statement on this point.

We are therefore under the necessity of reporting this unsatisfactory result.

Your Committee, constituted of members from different sections of the Church, are unanimous in their belief in the importance and necessity of a revision of the Constitution of the Church. Past experience seemed to indicate, however, that it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to secure the adoption of any Constitution that might be prepared at the present time. We believe that the desire for a revision of the Constitution has not diminished, but rather, perhaps, increased since the matter has been before the Church. Without expressing any opinion as to the prospect of success, should the effort still be continued, your Committee herewith lay the whole subject before your reverend body.

If this Synod should think proper to provide for the appointment of a new Committee on the Revision of the Constitution, we recommend that the Committee be reduced to a smaller number, consisting of one member from each District Synod.

A communication from Rev. C. H. Schoepfle to this Synod was referred to your Committee, in which he requests that some provision may be made by which the expenses of delegates to the Synods of the Church may be distributed in such way as to relieve the weak and distant Classes of the heavy burden, that now rests upon them, in sending delegates to the place of meeting of the District Synods and the General Synod. There is evidently a propriety in this request which becomes apparent when we consider that Classes are organized in distant portions of the Church in Kansas, Nebraska and California. For the present, however, your Committee com-

mend this subject to the District Synods for their consideration; and if anything further should be ordered by this body looking toward the revision of the Constitution, that this request be referred to the Committee that may be appointed on such revision.

Respectfully submitted,

THOS. G. APPLE, *Chairman,*
Of Joint-Committee on the Revision of the Constitution.

In immediate connection with the adoption of the foregoing report, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That a Committee, consisting of one member from each of the six District Synods, be appointed on the Revision of the Constitution, of whom the first named shall act as Chairman in convening the Committee for organization, with instruction to report to the next General Synod.

The Committee consists of Revs. Samuel R. Fisher, D. D., Jeremiah H. Good, D. D., John H. Klein, D. D., and Messrs. Christian M. Boush, Lewis H. Steiner, M. D., and William D. Gross.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That the Committee on the Revision of the Constitution is requested to provide articles that refer to the establishment and maintenance of *Parochial Schools*.

Transfer of German Charges and Vice Versa.

During the afternoon session of Friday, the third day of the sessions, a paper was presented as an explanation of Article 46 of the Constitution, having reference to the transfer of German charges from English to German Classes, and *vice versa*. This paper, after some discussion, was referred to a Special Committee, consisting of Revs. Samuel R. Fisher, D. D., John G. Zahner, D. D., John B. Kniest, and Elders Christian M. Boush and Louis H. Koch.

This Committee submitted their report on Tuesday afternoon, and it was continued under discussion during the afternoon and evening sessions. Finally, the previous question was moved and sustained. The Synod proceeded to vote, and the report, as amended, was adopted, and is as follows:

The Committee appointed to prepare a minute, in reference to the transfer of German charges from English to German Classes, and *vice versa*, respectfully submit the following:

WHEREAS, It is not only desirable, but has also ever been the policy of this Synod, to afford those pastors who use the German language prevailing in their religious services, every facility for the successful prosecution of their specific work; and, *whereas*, doubts seem to exist in the minds of some persons, as to their rights and privileges in this respect, under the Constitution of the Church; therefore,

Resolved, That in the judgment of this Synod, a pastoral charge in which the German language is prevailing used in the worship of the sanctuary, though located within the bounds of an English Classis, may, under the provisions of the Constitution, be connected with the nearest German Classis, the same privilege being extended to a prevailing English charge located within the bounds of a German Classis, with respect to being connected with the nearest English Classis.

Resolved, That whenever a request for a transfer of a charge from one Classis to another, under the circumstances indicated, is presented in a regular manner, the Classis to which such request is made shall not refuse to grant it, unless in the judgment of the Classis, there should be grave and sufficient reasons for so doing. This is not to be so construed as to allow an individual congregation, associated with one or more others in a pastoral charge, to separate itself from such charge, unless it can be done without endangering the interests of the congregation, or of the remaining portion of the charge.

Resolved, That when a request for such a transfer is made, it should be concurred in by the members of the charge with as great a unanimity as possible, and in no instance should it be made, unless a majority of the legally qualified voting members of the charge are in favor of it. Respectfully submitted,

SAM'L R. FISHER,	} <i>Committee.</i>
JOHN G. ZAHNER,	
JOHN B. KNIEST,	
CHRISTIAN M. BOUSH,	
LOUIS H. KOCH,	

A Request for Two General Synods.

The Committee on Official Reports of Classes, during Monday morning session, in item 7, reported a request from Iowa Classis

for the formation of two General Synods, on the basis of language and in harmony with the existing arrangements respecting District Synods and Classes. This request was referred to a Special Committee, consisting of Revs. Thomas G. Apple, D. D., John F. Busche and Elder William D. Gross.

This Committee, during the afternoon session of the last day of the sessions, presented their report, which was received and adopted :

The Committee to whom was referred the overture of the Iowa Classis, in regard to the organization of a German General Synod, respectfully report :

That so far as we are able to judge, there is no general desire on the part either of the English or the German portion of the Church to bring about a separation of the two sections on the basis of language, further than this has already taken place in the lower judicatories; and therefore we submit the following resolution :

Resolved, That this General Synod deems it inexpedient to take any action on the subject looking to such division.

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS G. APPLE, *Chairman*.

Relative Authority of Classes and Synods, &c.

During the Monday afternoon session, the Committee on Official Reports of Classes, in item 8, reported a request from Iowa Classis, asking the General Synod to define the authority of Classes and District Synods in regard to licensing and ordaining candidates for the gospel ministry. This request was referred to a Special Committee, consisting of Revs. George W. Welker, D. D., Moses Kieffer, D. D., and Elder Thomas J. Craig.

This Committee, during the morning session on Tuesday, submitted the following report, which was received and adopted :

The undersigned, to whom was committed the overture of the Classis of Iowa, asking the General Synod to define the relative jurisdiction of District Synods and Classes under one Constitution, as it respects the authority to license or ordain candidates for the ministry of Christ, find the rights and limitations of these several bodies set forth in Articles 51 and 61 of the Constitution. After careful examination of these several Articles, together with the limitations expressed in Article 3 of said Constitution, we have agreed to propose as the judgment of this Synod :

1. That the applicant for licensure who has been taken under the care of a Classis, and who has not been regularly transferred to another Classis, can only be licensed by the Classis under whose care he was placed, and that no other Classis can ordain him to the ministry unless he has been regularly dismissed to it.

2. That in all other cases when application is made it shall be proper for a District Synod to grant license or to ordain, always within the powers, however, specially granted by the Constitution as it respects qualification. •

3. A District Synod also may license or ordain one who has been under the care properly of a Classis when that Classis is a member of such Synod.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. WM. WELKER, *Chairman.*

In Regard to Theological Teaching.

The Committee on the Minutes of the Pittsburg Synod, during the afternoon session of the third day of the sessions, in item 3, reported that the Pittsburg Synod overtured this General Synod to reconsider its action in 1872, concerning the teaching of theology. This matter was referred to a Special Committee, consisting of Revs. Thomas G. Apple, D. D., John H. Klein, D. D., George B. Russell, D. D., and Elders John Wiest and George Hill, with instruction to report on Monday afternoon, immediately after the opening of the Synod.

This Committee, at the appointed time, submitted their report, which was received and put on its adoption. It was discussed during the afternoon and evening sessions, and during a part of Tuesday morning session; and then, as amended, adopted, and is as follows:

The Committee to whom was referred the overture from the Pittsburg Synod, touching the matter of theological instruction, report as follows:

The overture comes from the Pittsburg Synod, and asks for such action as will protect the District Synod in its absolute constitutional right of jurisdiction and control over the theological teaching within its bounds.

We regard the reference to the action of the General Synod at Cincinnati as only incidental to the main object in view. Inasmuch

as that action relates merely to a specific case, and gave no utterance as to the meaning and intent of the Constitution, bearing on the subject brought to our notice in this overture, your Committee do not deem it necessary that said action be brought under consideration. But for the protection of the District Synods, we submit the following resolutions:

Resolved, That according to the clear provision of the Constitution of the Church, all public theological teaching within the bounds of any particular Synod is placed exclusively under the direct control of that District Synod.

Resolved, That nothing in the preceding resolution shall be construed as reversing or affirming the action of the General Synod of Cincinnati, in the Super appeal case.

We present these resolutions as a sufficient declaration of the meaning and intent of the Constitution bearing on this general subject.

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS G. APPLE, *Chairman*.

Preparation of an English Hymn Book.

The Committee appointed to engage in the preparation of a Hymn Book, referred to in item 6 in the report of the Committee on Minutes of General Synod (1872, page 84), during the morning session of the fourth day of the sessions, submitted the following report, which was received and adopted:

Your Committee appointed to prepare a Hymn Book beg leave to report as follows:

Only one session of the Committee has been held at which certain rules were adopted, fixing the method of procedure in the work. The Chairman of the Committee, being engaged by previous appointment in preparing a selection of hymns for the Synod of the United States, found it entirely impossible to increase his labors and neglected to call together the Committee as directed. Consequently the Committee has done nothing more than to gather much material to be used in the compilation of a suitable Hymn Book; and should the Synod see fit to continue the Committee, the work might possibly be brought to a satisfactory conclusion by the time of the next session of the General Synod. The most that your Committee can do is to report progress, and ask either to be continued as above suggested, or be discharged. Respectfully submitted,

ELNATHAN E. HIGBEE, *Chairman*.

In this connection the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the Committee on the Preparation of a Hymn Book be continued, with instruction to report to the next General Synod.

The Committee, as continued, consists of Revs. El Nathan E. Higbee, D. D., David Van Horne, James Bossard, Ph. D., George B. Russell, D. D., Benjamin Bausman, D. D., and Elders Lewis H. Steiner, M. D., and Benjamin Kuhns.

Preparation of a German Hymn Book Authorized.

On motion, the following action, in regard to the preparation of a German Hymn Book, was adopted:

WHEREAS, The Hymn Book, bearing the title of "German Hymn Book," edited by Rev. Philip Schaff, D. D., and much used in our German congregations, is not the property of any of our Publication Boards; and the Church consequently loses many a profit that might be used with advantage for our different enterprises; therefore,

Resolved, That the General Synod create a Committee to prepare a German Hymn Book for the Reformed Church.

The Committee appointed consists of Revs. John B. Kniest, Nicholas Gehr, D. D., John F. H. Dieckman, Marcus Bachman and John H. Klein, D. D.

German Official Record and Hymn Book Fund.

The German Philadelphia Classis, as reported by the Committee on the Official Reports of Classes, in item 5, during the morning session on Monday, requested that the proceedings of the General Synod be read in the German language to enable the German Synods to have an official record; and that the proceeds of the "German Hymn Book Fund" might be paid to the German Evangelical Reformed Book Concern at Cleveland, for the purpose of publishing German Sunday-school books.

The subject matter of this twofold item was referred to a Special Committee, consisting of Revs. Samuel R. Fisher, D. D., John F. Busche and Elder Jonathan Sweisfort. This Committee, during the afternoon session of the last day of the sessions, submitted their report, which was received and adopted, and is as follows:

The Committee, to whom was referred the overtures from the

German Philadelphia Classis, in reference to keeping an official record of the proceedings of Synod in the German as well as in the English language, and the transfer of the proceeds of the German Hymn Book Fund in the hands of the Treasurer of this Synod to the Buch Verein, at Cleveland, Ohio, respectfully submit the following report:

Compliance with the request embodied in the first overture would require, not only every motion and every report, but also the record of the proceedings of each day, to be written out accurately and fully, in both the English and German languages, and read before Synod before adoption. Whilst it is desirable that our German brethren should be accommodated as far as practicable, and to this end the Synod has made it a rule that every motion, and the substance also of every report submitted to Synod, must be stated in the German language if called for before adoption; yet, to extend this rule, so as to embrace the demands embodied in the above request, would impose a large amount of additional labor upon the Committees and officers of Synod, and also consume a large additional amount of time, and thus make it not only inconvenient, but even burdensome.

Besides this, to give equal official authority to the records of the proceedings made in both languages might lead to serious difficulties, inasmuch as it would be exceedingly difficult to make the phraseology used in the records in both languages to accord so fully with each other, as to avoid at least apparent discrepancies in some instances. In the circumstances, when one language only can be chosen for the official record, it is natural to prefer the English, as that is the language in which the business of the civil courts of the country is transacted. In view of the foregoing facts,

Resolved, That this Synod respectfully declines to accede to the request embodied in this particular overture of the Classis.

In reference to the request embodied in the second overture of the Classis, be it

Resolved, That the Treasurer of this Synod be instructed to pay over to the Buch Verein, at Cleveland, Ohio, the amount of the proceeds of the German Hymn Book Fund in his hands, to be used by said Verein, in the publication of a German Hymn Book for the use of Sunday-schools.

Respectfully submitted,

SAM'L R. FISHER, *Chairman*.

Respecting Use of Hymn Book and Liturgy.

The Committee on Official Reports of Classes, during the afternoon session of the fourth day of the sessions, in item 2, reported a request from North Carolina Classis, asking General Synod (a) to permit them the provisional use of any Hymn Book they might select until a new Hymn Book be constitutionally adopted, and (b) to adopt measures to correct the anomalous state of the Church in matters of worship, growing out of the permission to use several Liturgies, and also, in item 10, a request from the same Classis to General Synod to guard against the violation of Article 138 of the Constitution.

These three requests were referred to a Special Committee, consisting of Revs. J. Spangler Kieffer, John B. Kniest, William M. Deatrick, and Elders William H. Seibert and Louis H. Koch. This Committee, during the afternoon session of the last day of the sessions, submitted the following report, which was received and adopted:

The Committee, to whom were referred certain requests from the Classis of North Carolina, respectfully offer the following report:

There were placed in the hands of the Committee three requests from the above named Classes to the following effect:

1. That this Synod would take such action as to correct certain alleged evils arising from the existing freedom in regard to the use of two different "Orders of Worship."

2. That this Synod would permit the North Carolina Classis to use in its congregations such collection of hymns as it may select until a new Hymn Book is adopted by a majority of the Classes.

3. That this Synod would guard against the violation of Article 138 of the Constitution, and direct the Classes to make diligent inquiry as to any departures from the Order of Worship prescribed by the Constitution.

With regard to the first request, the Committee, not being prepared to question the legitimacy or the wisdom of this Synod's past action, in permitting the discretionary use of the two Orders of Worship now before the Church, would recommend the following:

Resolved, That this Synod deems no action necessary at this time, in reference to the two Liturgies, which it has heretofore granted the freedom of using.

In answer to the second request, they recommend the following:

Resolved, That the North Carolina Classis be permitted to use

in its congregations any collection of hymns published by a Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States.

With regard to the third request, the Committee have reason to believe that the 138th Article of the Constitution is duly observed throughout the Church; that is to say, that the worship of the congregations embraces the different parts of invocation, singing, prayer, reading of the Scriptures, sermon and benediction. They would therefore recommend the following:

Resolved, That it is not at present necessary to call the attention of the Classes to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

J. SPANGLER KIEFFER, *Chairman*.

Definition of the Office of Deacon.

The Lebanon Classis, as reported by the Committee on Official Reports of Classes, in item 3, requested a more complete definition of the office of Deacon; and the Synod in the United States, as reported by the Committee on the Minutes of said Synod, in item 6, having been asked by said Classis for a deliverance, referred that request to this General Synod.

This request was referred to a Special Committee, consisting of Revs. Jeremiah H. Good, D. D., George B. Russell, D. D., and Elder Thomas J. Craig, with instruction to report to the next General Synod.

Action on Request of the Synod of the Northwest.

The Synod of the Northwest, as reported by the Committee on the Minutes of said Synod, in item 5, requested the General Synod to adopt measures to protect it over against certain encroachments of the Presbyterian Church. This request was referred to a Special Committee, consisting of Revs. Peter Greding, Gerhard Kuhlen and Elder Joseph Andreas.

This Committee, during the evening session of the last day of the sessions, submitted the following report, which was received and as amended adopted:

Your Committee, to whom was referred the grievance of the reverend Synod of the Northwest concerning certain encroachments on their rights by Presbyterians, has investigated the matter as fully as pos-

sible, and finds a just cause for complaint in the fact that several Presbyteries of that Church did not only admit and sustain Reformed ministers, but congregations also; though the former did neither apply for nor obtain regular dismissions from their former church connection, but withdrew from it and their obligations to it in a manner contrary to the established and generally recognized rules of order. By this unwarranted course of the seceded parties and their admission into the Presbyterian Church by the Presbyteries in question, and in a manner so utterly regardless of the claims of our Church, we have not only sustained serious damage in the loss of church property, but the law of justice and brotherly love, which should govern the relations of one sister denomination to another, was also grossly violated. And as we have reason to believe that the Synod of the Presbyterian Church has no knowledge of these occurrences, and that it will not approve them; therefore, we recommend the following resolution for adoption:

Resolved, That inasmuch as this General Synod is not in correspondence with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, it is not in our power to afford the desired relief, but we suggest to the Synod of the Northwest to overture the Presbyterian Synod within whose bounds the Presbytery in question lies for redress.

Respectfully submitted,

PETER GREDING, *Chairman*.

Action in Regard to Divorce.

The East Pennsylvania, Maryland and Iowa Classes, as reported by the Committee on Official Reports of Classes, in item 1, during Saturday afternoon session, variously overtured the General Synod concerning the subject of divorce, and asked for a definite, positive and scriptural deliverance. These overtures were referred to a Special Committee, consisting of Revs. Elnathan E. Higbee, D. D., Moses Kieffer, D. D., John F. Busche, and Elders David B. Russell and Adam B. Wingerd. This Committee, during the morning session of the seventh day of the sessions, submitted the following report, which was received, discussed and adopted:

Your Special Committee, to whom were referred items relating to the subject of divorce, as reported by the Committee on Minutes of Classes, begs leave to report, as follows:

The reverend Classes of East Pennsylvania, Maryland and Iowa request this Synod to give a positive and scriptural deliverance on the subject of divorce. Inasmuch, however, as no individual case, requiring immediate legislation is now before this Synod, and in view of the great responsibility, and the many difficulties, connected with the careful drafting of such a deliverance, your Committee feels compelled to ask for more time than the sessions of this present Synod will allow, and therefore respectfully requests to be continued with instructions to report in full at the next regular meeting of the General Synod in 1878.

But, that the Classes petitioning this Synod may not be left without any definite response upon a subject of such solemn concern to the whole Church, your Committee feels constrained to report in part two resolutions for the action of this body, viz:

Resolved, That the marriage bond, whether entered into under the administration of the State or the Church, is indissoluble except by natural death.

Resolved, That while regarding the divorces granted by the State as valid, so far as temporalities are concerned, we do hereby direct the various pastors and judicatories of the Reformed Church in the United States to give no validity, in their spiritual discipline, to any divorce except such as has been granted upon the ground of adultery by one or both parties in marriage. By order of Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

E. E. HIGBEE, *Chairman*.

ARTICLE XIX.

SYNODICAL ARCHIVES.

Nothing occurred requiring record.

ARTICLE XX.

FINANCE.

I. Report of Treasurer of General Synod.

The Treasurer of the General Synod submitted his report, which was received and referred to the Committee on Finance. It is as follows:

WILLIAM D. GROSS, *Treasurer, in account with the General Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States.*

1872.		RECEIVED.	DR.
Nov. 25		To balance in Treasury.....	\$313 78
1873.			
July 24		" Henry Wirt, Esq., Treasurer of Synod in U. S.....	600 00
1874.			
Sept. 23		" J. W. Brown, Esq., Treasurer of Northwestern Synod,	200 00
1875.			
March 10		" Rev. J. H. Good, D. D., Treasurer of Ohio Synod.....	150 00
" 25		" J. W. Brown, Esq., Treasurer of Northwestern Synod,	170 00
April 19		" Rev. J. H. Good, D. D., Treasurer of Ohio Synod.....	300 00
May 12		" G. W. Hensel, Esq., Treasurer of Synod in U. S.....	355 00
			<hr/>
			\$2,088 78

1872.		EXPENDITURE.	CR.
Dec. 21	By	Rev. J. Dahlman, traveling expenses as Assistant Clerk to General Synod.....	\$26 50
1873.			
Jan. 3	"	Rev. John Beck, D. D., traveling expenses as member of Committee on the Revision of the Constitution.....	25 00
Feb. 3	"	Rev. B. Bausman, D. D., traveling expenses to General Synod of Reformed Church in America, held in Newark, N. J.....	4 50
May 19	"	Rev. Jno. Külling, traveling expenses to Evangelical Synod of the West.....	4 50
"	"	Elm Street Printing Company, for printing Minutes of General Synod.....	304 00
"	"	Rev. Isaac H. Reiter, D. D., traveling expenses, salary as Stated Clerk, etc., etc.....	105 00
"	"	J. Dahlman, salary as Assistant Clerk.....	75 00
Aug. 12	"	James R. Rodgers & Co., for printing German Minutes of General Synod.....	239 18
"	"	Rev. G. W. Welker, D. D., in attending General Synod of Reformed Church in America, held at New Brunswick, June, 1873.....	33 96
		Balance in the hands of Treasurer.....	1,271 14
			<hr/>
			\$2,088 78

The Treasurer hereby informs the General Synod that the Pittsburgh Synod has failed to pay its assessment of \$225.00; and that the sum of \$193.65 is in the Treasury, interest on the \$500 bond donated by Rev. Ph. Schaff, D. D., and called the German Hymn Book Fund

WILLIAM D. GROSS, *Treasurer.*

II. Report of Committee on Finance.

The Standing Committee on Finance submitted the following report, which was received, and, together with the Treasurer's report, adopted:

The Committee on Finance would state that they have examined the report of Synod's Treasurer, with accompanying accounts and vouchers, and find it correct.

Receipts for the year.....	\$2,088 78
Expenditures for the year.....	817 64
Balance in Treasury.....	1,271 14

From the same report we also learn that all assessments upon the District Synods are paid in, except that of the Pittsburg Synod, whose indebtedness is \$225.00.

To meet the current expenses until the next meeting of the Synod, your Committee would recommend the following assessment upon the several District Synods, as provided in the Constitution :

Synod in the United States.....	\$275
“ of Ohio.....	230
“ of the Northwest.....	167
“ of Pittsburg.....	117
“ of the Potomac.....	166
“ of East German.....	45

\$1,000

Respectfully submitted,

SAMUEL MEASE, *Chairman.*

III. Payment of Bills by Treasurer Authorized.

The Treasurer of the General Synod was instructed to pay as per order the following bills, namely:

1. The sum of \$228.30 to the members of the Committee on Union between the Reformed Churches, for expenses incurred in attending the joint meeting of the Committees, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November, 1874; 2. to Rev. George Wm. Welker, D. D., \$33.96, as delegate to the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America, in 1873; and 3. to Rev. Samuel R. Fisher, D. D., \$5.00 for expenses incurred as Committee on the Market Street Reformed Church Property, at Germantown, Pennsylvania.

IV. Report on Immediate Contingent Expenses.

During the morning session, on Tuesday, Revs. John F. H. Dieckman, William F. P. Davis and Elder John Truxal, were ap-

pointed a Committee to collect an assessment of thirty-five cents from each member of Synod, to defray the immediate contingent expenses of the present sessions. The Committee attended to the duty assigned them, and, at the opening of the morning session of the last day of the sessions reported that they had collected \$51.25. Of this amount they had paid \$4.50 for the printing of the nominations of Synod; and the balance, according to instruction, they paid over to the Pastor of the St. John's Reformed Church of Fort Wayne.

ARTICLE XXI.

PUBLICATION.

The following action, in regard to the publication and distribution of the Minutes of the General Synod, was adopted:

Resolved, That the Stated Clerk be instructed to have 2,500 copies of the Minutes of the present General Synod, duly authenticated, published in the English, and 1,250 in the German language.

Resolved, That the Minutes of the General Synod be distributed among the several District Synods, according to the ratio of assessment made for contingent purposes.

ARTICLE XXII.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Committee on Leave of Absence.

On Friday afternoon, immediately after the opening of the session, Revs. Jacob O. Miller, D. D., Harvey Wilson and Elder J. Taylor Motter were appointed a Committee through whom all applications for leave of absence are to be made, and their report, submitted during the evening session of the last day of the sessions, was approved by Synod.

Report of Committee on Nominations.

The Committee on Nominations, on the morning of the seventh day of the sessions, through the Chairman, Rev. Jacob O. Miller, D. D., presented their final report, which was received, and as

amended adopted. The election was ordered to be held at the opening of the evening session on Tuesday, and the Committee was instructed to have 200 copies of the Nominations printed for the use of Synod. At the appointed time the election was held. Revs. Henry F. Keener, John J. Leberman, Elders William Lupfer and Jonathan Sweisfort were appointed tellers, who, having distributed the tickets among the members of Synod, received the ballots, counted them, and reported the result through the President. For result see Articles XI., XIII. and XIV.

Action Respecting the Centennial Celebration.

The Synod in the United States, as reported by the Committee on the Minutes of said Synod, in item 10, during the morning session on Saturday, requested this General Synod to adopt measures to secure the co-operation of the whole Church in the observance of the National Centennial Celebration in A. D. 1876. This request was referred to a Special Committee, consisting of Revs. George Wm. Welker, D. D., Charles H. Leinbach, and Elder Andrew H. Baughman.

This Committee submitted their report during the evening session of the last day of the sessions. The report was received, slightly amended, and adopted as follows:

The Committee to whom was referred the consideration of the action of the Synod in the United States, together with its request that the General Synod would take measures to bring the whole Church under its jurisdiction to unite in some proper way in the Centennial rejoicing of the nation, would respectfully report that in their judgment it is becoming in the Reformed Church in the United States to join heartily in the great National Jubilee. The early history of her patriotic ministry, and of her people, who so unanimously and heartily engaged in the unequal but heroic struggle that achieved for our common country not only civil liberty, but the freedom also to worship God unawed by human power requires this. It is proper for a Church that has been witness to the divine favor in delivering our land from anarchy, and our government from being subverted, and permits us to hope that it may be the inheritance of our children to make appropriate record of the past, unitedly with all the people of the land. It is right that a Church that has united her brethren of a common faith from all lands to gather into

her bosom under the protection of equal laws, that now also with them we should join to celebrate the preciousness of our civil and religious inheritance. It is fitting that we should be one corps of the great army of the Lord Jesus Christ, as they unite to remember the Lord's marvelous doings with them in this land. The records of our Church for a hundred years, planted in the wilds by our fathers, while it was struggling from infancy to manhood for a position, should claim of us grateful remembrance, for it is the history of a succession of blessings from the Lord on us as a Church, when, at the day we come to compare our numbers as a Church with the fewness of our Zion, when liberty was first proclaimed throughout the land. When we remember the narrow territory that was the home of our churches then, and now lift our eyes and see our beloved Church reaching far over the grand States of this Union into the wilderness territories, surely it is proper in this Synod to invite its churches to join in declaring what the Lord hath done for us, and whereof we are glad. In order to give form and unity to such expression of gratitude to Almighty God for the untold blessings that in Christ he has bestowed on our Church, this Synod would recommend:

1. That the Lord's Days nearest to the fourth of July, 1876, be, by the pastors of the several churches connected with this Synod, observed as a day of praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God, commemorating his great goodness to our land and nation, in establishing a perpetuity, a government that secures civil and religious liberty to all the people, and especially the guarantee to the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ, freedom of faith, worship and discipline, and protects her in all her rights of person and property. And that it be recommended to all our Consistories on that day to ask the contributions of the people to the great and needed work of Church Extension.

2. That a competent and efficient committee be appointed who shall prepare, or have prepared under their supervision, a record of the historical origin of our Church, together with a statement of its doctrine and government. That special care be taken to set forth the divine favor in preserving its unity during these hundred years in all the conflicts through which it has been compelled to pass, its rapid and wide spread over our country, its increase in numbers, its influence on the general life of the nation, its institutions, etc., etc. That this production be published in various suit-

able forms, that it be issued at least in the German and English languages, and that efforts be made for its widest circulation during the Centennial year, among not only our own Churches in this land, but also in the fatherland, and among strangers of other Churches and other lands. Thus we would propose to this Synod to declare to all people what the Lord hath done for us, to the praise and glory of his grace in Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. WM. WELKER, *Chairman.*

The Committee called for in the foregoing report, and as appointed, consists of Revs. Elnathan E. Higbee, D. D., Benjamin Bausman, D. D., and Nicholas Gehr, D. D.

The Synodical Sermon.

On motion, the following action, in regard to the Synodical Sermon, was adopted :

Resolved, That this General Synod expresses its high appreciation of the sermon preached at the opening of the sessions of this body, by Rev. John H. Klein, D. D., and that he be requested to furnish a copy of the same for publication in the several periodicals of the Church.

Invitation to Visit Public Schools of Fort Wayne.

A communication, during the afternoon session of the seventh day of the sessions, was received from the Board of Education of Fort Wayne, through Mr. James H. Smart, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, inviting the General Synod to visit the Public Schools of Fort Wayne.

Respecting this invitation the following action was adopted :

Resolved, That the hearty thanks of this Synod be, and are hereby tendered to the said Board and Superintendent, and that it is recommended to the members of Synod, as far as possible, to accept this kind invitation in the way of personal visitation.

Expressions of Sympathy.

During the evening session of the seventh day of the sessions, the sad intelligence of the death of a son of Rev. Max Stern, D. D., by drowning on the twenty-first of May in the Sheboygan River, was received by Synod, and in order to give proper expression of sympathy, a Committee was appointed to prepare a minute. The Committee consists of Revs. David Van Horne, John H. Klein, D. D., and Elder Thomas W. Chapman. This Committee, during the evening session of the last day of the sessions, submitted the following report, which was received and adopted:

The Committee appointed to draft a minute expressive of the sympathy of this Synod with Rev. Dr. Max Stern in his bereavement, beg leave respectfully to report the following:

WHEREAS, The sad intelligence of the death of Max Stern, Jr., a son of Rev. Max Stern, D. D., our esteemed and beloved brother, has been conveyed to this body; and,

WHEREAS, The manner of the death of this young brother (who was a student at the Institution of our Church at Sheboygan, Wisconsin) is doubly afflictive to his parents and friends, because of its unexpected and mysterious character; therefore,

Resolved, That we, as a Synod, hereby express our deep sympathy with the bereaved father and family, and commend them to the grace and tender mercy of our heavenly Father, who alone can comfort his afflicted people, and make all things work together for their good, and for the glory of his name.

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be furnished for publication in the Church papers, and that the Corresponding Secretary be instructed to forward the same to the bereaved father and family.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID VAN HORNE, *Chairman.*

Also, during the evening session of the last day of the sessions, in consequence of the intelligence of the bereavement received, the following action of sympathy was adopted:

Resolved, That the heartfelt sympathy of this Synod be and is hereby tendered to Elder Edward J. Zahm, a *primarius* delegate to this Synod, in view of the sad bereavement which he has suffered in the death of his wife during our sessions.

Time and Place of Next Meeting.

During the morning session of the third day of the sessions, the General Synod proceeded to select the place and fix the time for its next triennial meeting. The places put in nomination were the First Reformed Church, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and the Trinity Reformed Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The roll was called in the selection of the place, and the result of the vote, in regard to both the place and the time, was, that the First Reformed Church, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, was chosen as the place; and the third Wednesday of May (15th), A. D., 1878, at eight o'clock in the evening, was fixed as the time.

The roll of the Synod having been completed, and a quorum was found present, the Synod, during the afternoon session of the second day (Thursday) of the sessions, proceeded to the election of officers. Revs. S. N. L. Kessler, John B. Kniest, Joseph A. Keller, John A. Hoffbeins, William M. Deatruck, William Renter, Daniel B. Albright and Elder William Lupfer were appointed tellers. For the result of the election, see Article III., Election of Officers.

During the morning session of the third day of the sessions, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the Committee on the State of the Church have access to the Minutes of the District Synods in the hands of the Committees on the Minutes of those Synods.

ARTICLE XXIII.

RESUMPTION AND CLOSE.

Vote of Thanks.

On motion, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That this General Synod expresses its hearty thanks for the hospitality received from the pastor and members of the St. John's congregation especially, but also from the pastor and members of the Salem's congregation, as also from the Christian families of Fort Wayne, all of whom have welcomed us with great cordiality

and love; and that the pastors of the aforesaid congregations are requested to publish this resolution from their pulpits.

Resolved, That we express our thanks to the following Railroad Companies—Pennsylvania Railroad, Pittsburg, Fort Wayne and Chicago, and Philadelphia and Reading Railroads, for their reduction of fare to the delegates.

Resolved, That these resolutions be published in the papers of Fort Wayne.

The roll was called, and the following named members were found absent without permission, namely: Elders Louis Zellner, Bernard Sturm and John Otto.

The Minutes were read and adopted, and ordered to be engrossed.

ARTICLE XXIV.

ADJOURNMENT.

Resolved, That we, as a Synod, now adjourn to meet again in triennial sessions, in the First Reformed Church, at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, on Wednesday, May 15th, A. D. 1878, at eight o'clock in the evening.

The General Synod adjourned on Wednesday, May 26th, at eleven o'clock in the evening, and closed its sessions with singing the Gloria in Excelsis, the repetition of the Apostles' Creed, praying the Lord's Prayer, and the Apostolic Benediction by the President.

WILLIAM K. ZIEBER, *President*.

ISAAC H. REITER, *Stated Clerk*.

Official copy from the original Minutes.

ISAAC H. REITER, *Stated Clerk*.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1875.

SYNOD IN UNITED STATES.

CLASSES	Ministers.	Congrega- tions.	Members.	Uncon- firmed Members.	Baptisms.	Confirmed.	Certificates.	Communi- cants.	Excom. and Brased.	Dismissed.	Deaths.	Sunday- Schools.	Sunday- School Scholars.	Benevo- lent Con- tributions.	Contingent and Local Objects.	Students for Mintry.
East Pennsylvania,	31	93	17,133	9,171	1,577	1,061	155	12,597	10	106	654	129	5,183	\$12,601 52	\$58,313 81	12
Lebanon,	31	96	15,138	9,610	1,581	868	442	12,159	2	182	544	102	8,505	8,560 25	32,016 85	17
Philadelphia,	22	23	3,286	912	258	175	99	2,665		92	67	23	2,180	2,639 46		
Lancaster,	27	36	4,093	2,034	337	312	149	2,972		85	114	27	2,800	6,310 77	18,347 31	4
East Susquehanna,	22	78	8,096	4,827	774	546	177	6,488	5	47	297	72	3,826	3,014 00	24,320 00	2
West Susquehanna,	16	55	4,296	2,794	299	228	52	3,082	1	25	90	40	2,189	2,742 39	9,723 90	3
Goshenhoppen,	12	28	5,191	3,138	322	158	58	4,460		25	181	16	1,465	2,241 22		2
Tohickon,	14	35	5,883	2,745	401	241	83	4,714		73	193	31	1,769	2,281 47	30,841 47	2
Total, 8 Classes.	175	424	63,116	35,231	5,549	3,589	1,215	49,137	18	635	2,140	440	27,917	\$40,390 11	\$173,563 05	42

OHIO SYNOD.

Miami,	23	55	3,943	1,407	275	269	178	3,237	81	83	86	47	3,773	\$2,246 00	\$5,618 00	5
Lancaster,	14	39	2,464	1,059	148	112	56	2,019	21	41	29	28	2,033	2,545 39		2
Tuscarawas,	18	52	2,345	1,216	159	99	51	2,090	58	45	44	34	2,527	867 63		
Tiffin,	16	33	2,353	1,610	276	127	69	1,854	42	17	48	19	1,449	663 67		
St. John's,	14	28	3,834	1,957	435	304	116	3,233	2	30	174	29	1,980	928 90	4,305 00	5
Eastern Ohio,	11	25	2,538	1,135	203	182	40	1,942	13	19	34	19	1,736	837 16	8,073 00	4
Illinois,	7	13	410	225	28	19	6	329	1	1	7	9	150	142 95		
Shelby,	6	13	407	193	64	44	14	194		3	14	10	370	90 00		
Iowa,	9	18	784	638	31	51	60	696	9	19	9	11	575	928 44		
Ursinus,	7	11	522	389	112	62	40	354	5	10	9	7	271	317 84	305 00	
St. Joseph's,	13	38	1,551	1,170	143	119	56	1,249	6	21	45	22	1,418	183 74		
Cincinnati,	6	7	1,863	724	166	107	89	1,532	2	5	58	7	970	657 55		
Kansas,	4	9	331	253	45	19	68	162			15	4	137			
Total, 13 Classes.	148	341	23,345	11,976	2,095	1,514	843	18,891	240	294	572	246	17,289	\$10,419 27	\$18,301 00	16

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1875.

SYNOD OF THE NORTHWEST.

CLASSES.	Ministers.	Congregations.	Members.	Unconfirmed Members.	Baptisms.	Confirmed.	Certificate.	Communi- cants.	Excom. and Erased.	Dismissed.	Deaths.	Sunday- Schools.	Sunday- School Scholars.	Benevo- lent Con- tributions.	Contingent and Local Objects.	Students for Ministry
Zion's,	13	24	1,840	1,114	191	148	123	1,671	1	25	66	15	771	\$872 98		5
Sheboygan,	15	18	1,589	1,325	111	130	116	1,376	5	23	29	21	1,048	939 42		
Indiana,	23	37	3,123	2,659	406	234	76	2,631	30	47	122	27		2,336 85		
Heidelberg,	20	35	2,743	2,197	264	279	64	2,204	50	37	64	27	1,641	2,531 89		
Erie,	12	17	1,907	1,587	166	141	177	1,495	14	131	43	16	1,406	1,434 61		
Milwaukee,	12	20	1,896	1,496	275	118	86	1,615	6	28	80	17	346	388 85		
Minnesota,	10	19	716	702	151	58	40	407	8	27	22	14	327	403 34		
Nebraska,	3	6	192	31	30	5	4	178	1	6		3	75			
Total, 8 Classes.	108	176	14,011	11,111	1,594	1,113	686	11,577	115	324	426	140	5,614	\$8,907 94		5
PITTSBURG SYNOD.																
Westmoreland,	11	22	2,168	2,155	275	186	80	1,980	6	46	74	17	1,100	\$1,879 00	\$14,516 00	5
Clarion,	13	31	2,082	2,631	191	133	67	1,685		21	33	16	790	1,353 20	6,254 30	
St. Paul's,	12	19	1,800	1,497	169	121	30	1,315		38	54	12	1,011	1,017 19	5,635 00	
Somerset,	8	30	2,155	1,521	178	147	25	1,879		36	48	17	884	1,693 63	13,507 00	1
Allegheny,	16	20	1,633	1,139	159	124	186	1,443	1	24	48	11	793	7,519 38	11,288 35	4
Total, 5 Classes.	60	122	9,838	8,943	972	711	388	8,302	7	165	257	70	4,578	\$13,462 40	\$51,200 65	10

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1875. **SYNOD OF THE POTOMAC.**

CLASSES.	Ministers.	Congregations.	Members.	Unconfirmed Members.	Baptisms.	Confirmed.	Certificates.	Communicants.	Excommunicated.	Dismissed.	Deaths.	Sunday-Schools.	Sunday-School Scholars.	Benevolent Contributions.	Contingent and Local Objects.	Students for Ministry.
Zion's,	26	74	8,643	5,790	646	517	112	7,277		76	254	95	8,712	\$5,750		3
Maryland,	23	51	6,391	4,324	352	270	70	5,901		42	149	44	4,009	2,640		2
Mercersburg,	29	67	6,228	4,348	387	322	154	5,594	2	68	135	57	3,800	4,389		23
Virginia,	10	23	1,806	654	75	47	16	1,640		15	32	11	485	467		2
North Carolina,	11	28	1,940	777	108	107	11	1,840		7	31	7	120	167		1
San Francisco,	4	4	100	153	54	7	6	93		10	5	3	181			
Total, 6 Classes.	103	247	25,108	16,046	1,617	1,270	369	22,309	2	218	606	217	12,387	\$11,416		31
GERMAN SYNOD OF THE EAST.																
New York,	6	71	1,158	400	348	85	29	1,032	6	2	27	7	755	\$267	\$3,963	
West New York,	6	10	986	1,228	125	89	5	919		32	56	6	462	1,423	2,400	
German Philadelphia,	11	9	2,880	1,749	1,043	306	123	2,762		102	342	14	2,482	2,572	20,592	
German Maryland,	6	5	1,591	846	225	89	43	1,375		14	78	5	656	228		
Total, 4 Classes.	29	31	6,615	4,223	1,771	569	200	6,088	6	150	503	32	4,355	\$4,491	\$26,958	

CONDENSED TRIENNIAL SUMMARY.

SYNODS.	Classes.	Ministers.	Congregations.	Members.	Members Unconfirmed.	Baptisms.	Confirmed.	Certificate.	Communicants.	Ex. or Emission of Names.	Dismissed.	Deaths.	Sunday-Schools.	Sunday-School Scholars.	Benevolent Contributions.	Contingent and Local Objects.	Students for Ministry.
United States, 1873,	9	192	427	64,129	32,914	6,900	3,864	1,414	51,031	1	1,138	3,018	459	27,084	\$41,011 67	\$3,250 00	33
" " 1874,	10	192	440	67,154	37,380	6,940	3,980	1,367	52,931	24	739	2,509	461	31,154	43,230 97	198,121 05	45
Summation,*	8	175	424	63,116	35,231	12,449	7,452	2,629	49,137	19	1,773	5,158	440	27,917	\$81,401 78	\$176,813 05	42
Ohio, 1873,	9	132	294	20,705	12,438	1,881	1,490	651	17,652	206	240	585	211	14,491	\$10,771 56		
" " 1874,	10	144	338	23,083	12,778	2,118	1,434	667	18,794	195	306	526	227	16,188	12,767 02		8
" " 1875,	13	148	341	23,345	11,976	2,095	1,514	843	18,891	240	294	572	246	17,289	10,419 27	\$18,301 00	16
Summation,	13	148	341	23,345	11,976	6,094	4,438	2,161	18,891	641	840	1,683	246	17,289	\$33,957 85	\$18,301 00	16
Northwest, 1873,	7	120	213	13,332	10,929	1,590	911	569	10,925	53	203	423	138	4,868	\$7,356 87		2
" " 1874,	8	109	179	12,717	10,877	1,463	786	1,001	10,681	52	176	420	133	6,810	8,486 95		5
" " 1875,	8	108	176	14,070	11,111	1,504	1,113	686	11,577	115	324	426	140	5,614	8,907 91		5
Summation,	8	108	176	14,070	11,257	4,547	2,810	2,256	11,636	220	703	1,269	140	5,614	\$24,751 73		5
Pittsburg, 1873,	6	60	133	10,276	8,936	1,044	583	267	8,613	11	137	380	104	5,840	\$11,157 89	\$36,159 59	
" " 1874,	6	67	133	10,824	10,171	1,097	800	393	9,221	7	197	313	79	5,040	14,885 52	52,699 65	10
Summation,*	5	62	123	9,864	8,943	2,141	1,383	660	8,302	18	334	693	79	5,040	\$26,043 41	\$88,829 28	10
Potomac, 1873,	5	92	248	25,587	16,744	1,984	1,123	411	21,887	14	269	859	214	13,210	\$12,724 92		24
" " 1874,	7	107	250	26,494	16,856	1,854	1,352	409	23,509	2	232	676	220	12,937	11,603 91		31
Summation,*	6	103	247	25,108	16,046	3,601	2,393	780	22,309	16	487	1,465	217	12,387	\$24,141 01		31
German of East, 1875,	4	29	31	6,615	4,223	1,771	569	200	6,088	6	150	503	82	4,355	\$4,491 83	\$26,958 00	8
GRAND TOTAL, Synods 6,44	625	1,342	142,118	87,666	30,612	19,046	8,686	4,287	10,771	920	4,287	10,771	1,154	72,602	\$194,787 61	\$310,931 29	107

* The reduction in numbers in the summation of the Synods in the United States, Pittsburg and Potomac, compared with the reports of 1874, was made necessary by the dismission of the four Classes to organize (January 12, 1875) the German Synod of the East, to which reference can be had.

Comparative Statistics of the Reformed Church

IN THE UNITED STATES.

	1863	1866	1869	1872	1875
Synods.....	2	2	3	4	6
Classes.....	26	29	31	35	44
Ministers	447	485	526	586	635
Congregations.....	1,099	1,144	1,179	1,312	1,342
Members.....	98,775	109,925	117,910	130,299	145,000
Members Unconfirmed.....	56,301	69,765	68,362	73,288	88,758
Baptisms, given year.....	11,739	11,175	12,776	12,487	13,500
“ in three years.....	35,446	33,638	36,117	38,605	40,000
Confirmed, given year.....	5,552	6,845	7,068	7,462	8,766
“ in three years.....	17,616	16,756	20,183	23,247	25,000
Certificate, given year.....	1,360	2,421	3,592	3,369	3,733
“ in three years.....	4,406	6,205	8,779	9,889	10,500
Communicants.....	87,871	91,547	96,728	109,507	120,363
Excom. or Erased, given year...	119	196	144	318	387
“ “ in three years	428	509	528	722	920
Dismissed, given year.....	552	1,244	1,637	1,454	1,750
“ in three years.....	1,674	2,975	4,459	4,762	5,000
Deaths, given year.....	4,679	4,207	3,773	4,425	4,507
“ in three years.....	12,725	13,486	11,186	12,594	14,600
Sunday-schools	894	939	1,020	1,021	1,154
Sunday-school Scholars.....	22,404	34,000	49,000	63,038	74,602
Students for Ministry.....				75	107
Benevolent Contributions, given year	\$29,528	\$60,977	\$74,453	\$86,651	\$88,117
Benevolent Contributions, in three years.....	\$100,000	\$202,718	\$228,818	\$247,387	\$250,000
Contingent Expenses and Local Objects.....					\$310,000

NOTE.—The General Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States, organized in 1863, meets triennially, as indicated at the head of each of the above five columns, and this table is designed to exhibit a *comparative* view of the increase and success of the Church since the organization of the General Synod. The figures in the column of 1875 may not in every particular be correct, as they had to be in part estimated, in consequence of not having access to the present year's statistics of the Synods in the United States, Pittsburg and Potomac, which have not yet had their annual meetings. The figures given, however, are sufficiently correct for all practical purposes, and reveal interesting and encouraging facts, and clearly show a steady progress and substantial growth of the Reformed Church in the United States during the past twelve years.—*Stated Clerk.*

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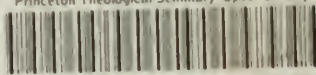
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